

Arafat in Egypt to meet Mubarak

CAIRO (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat arrived here on Wednesday to brief Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on his meetings in Washington with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Mubarak's top political advisor Osama Al Baz welcomed Arafat at Cairo international airport, officials said. Arafat did not make any statement on his arrival but his aide Nabil Abu Rudeina said in statements to the Cairo press that the Palestinian president would brief Mubarak on his talks in Washington.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

Iraq's envoy to U.N. refuses to return to Baghdad

CAIRO (AP) — Saddam Hussein's half brother, who served as Iraq's ambassador to the U.N. headquarters in Geneva, has refused to return to Iraq after his diplomatic service ended last month. Iraqi dissidents and Arab diplomats said Wednesday. His defection would mark the second-biggest break in Saddam's troubled family since the end of the 1991 Gulf War. Saddam's two sons-in-law defected to Amman, Jordan, in 1995, only to be killed upon their return to Iraq six months later.

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Israeli Arab clashes spread to Nazareth

TEL AVIV (R) — A surge of unrest among Arabs in Israel spread to the historic city of Nazareth on Wednesday after the apparent failure of an attempt by Israeli President Ezer Weizman to ease tensions.

Weizman had earlier visited the northern town of Umm Al-Fahm, where disturbances began on Sunday over land confiscations, but residents said clashes with security forces had continued into the night there for a third straight day.

"The president's visit didn't lead to anything. He didn't bring any solutions," said Suleiman Fahmawi, a member of the Umm Al-Fahm action committee.

A municipal spokesman in Nazareth, hallowed to Christians as the place where Jesus

grew up and Israel's largest Arab city, said protesters had pelted the local police station with stones and bottles after security forces raided two homes of a prominent local family.

The spokesman, Ramzi Hakim, said police responded with tear gas.

Hakim said Nazareth's Arab mayor Ramez Jarayseh had also staged a sit-in demonstration inside the police station for several hours until police allowed him to leave with 13 people they had detained in the raids.

One of the houses raided was that of Misbah Zayyad, a leader of the Arab Democratic Front Party, and the other the family home of his late brother Tawfik Zayyad, a former mayor of Nazareth and prominent Arab writer,

Hakim said by telephone.

"They beat people inside the houses. Some of them have serious wounds and were taken to hospital," he said. Israeli police were not available for comment. Other Israeli officials also could not be contacted following the start of Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar.

This week's violence has been the worst in more than 20 years involving Israeli Arabs, who make up nearly one million of Israel's population of almost six million and complain of deep discrimination.

The unrest began on Sunday when police tried to remove protesters who had pitched tents in a village near Umm Al-Fahm on land the army wants to expropriate for

a firing range.

Hundreds of people have been wounded and scores detained in the ensuing disturbances.

Workers at the Umm Al-Fahm clinic said medical staff there had treated about 30 people for injuries on Wednesday, three of whom needed surgery, before the day's unrest died down.

Earlier, witnesses said paramilitary police fired rubber-coated bullets and tear gas at hundreds of stone-throwers in Umm Al-Fahm and Nazareth during protests that accompanied a general strike in Arab towns in Israel.

The general strike was the second called this year by Israeli Arabs. The previous stoppage in April followed clashes with police over house demolitions.

Ajlouni: Vaccination case is under control

By Francesca Ciriaci

AMMAN — The government on Wednesday moved swiftly to address a public scare raised when more than 300 students complained of nausea and dizziness this week after being vaccinated for diphtheria and tetanus.

As of yesterday evening, Ministry of Health officials and medical staff from various governorates confirmed that only a few youths between the age of 11 and 15 were being kept in hospital under observation as a precautionary measure.

"We want to reassure people that the situation is really under control and that some communities over-reacted as the first news of students being admitted to hospitals spread," Health Minister Nael Ajlouni told the Jordan Times on Wednesday.

Most of the children who were referred to hospitals between Monday and Wednesday complained of fever, dizziness, headache, nausea, and local swelling.

Ajlouni said the symptoms presented by most students referred to hospital were normal after the inoculation of the D&T vaccine, although the number of cases of high susceptibility to the inoculation was slightly above the average and a few cases required particular attention.

The D&T shots were administered in a nationwide immunisation campaign launched by the Ministry of Health on Sept. 14.

One health ministry official told the Jordan Times that the vaccines, which were donated by the United Nations Children's Fund, could have been slightly contaminated with vaccines for other diseases, thus provoking symptoms such as nausea, dizziness and headache.

"Little traces of whooping cough vaccine in the (tetanus) vaccines, for example, could produce such symptoms (for 24 hours following the administration of the shot)," Ajlouni said.

"But I am really confident that there is nothing wrong with either our vaccination system, which has been rated among the best in the world by international agencies, or the vaccines themselves."

Ajlouni ruled out the possibility that the undesirable effects of the vaccines could have been caused by improper storage or refrigeration of the serum.

"I deny this with great confidence. Two days ago I toured many hospitals and health centres in the south



Doctor Khalid Hyari checks a patient from Ain Al Basha High School for Girls who was suffering symptoms after inoculation Wednesday (Photo by Yousef Allam)

and personally inspected storing procedures and facilities," Ajlouni said.

Statistics support the validity of this statement, he said, because the same vaccine was administered to more than 16,000 girls and boys, and only a small percentage of them complained of some symptoms.

However, the real causes behind the incident will only be clear in a week, when the results of laboratory tests

UNICEF representative in Jordan Misrak Elias stressed that the vaccines, manufactured by a Hungarian pharmaceutical company under a Canadian licence, had been donated to the Ministry of Health last year in the framework of UNICEF's cooperation with the Jordanian government.

She told a press conference yesterday that at the time of their delivery to the ministry the vaccines met all required

Experts were dispatched by the ministry of health yesterday to all governorates, with the mandate to inspect all facilities where the D&T vaccines had been stored.

Some 160 students were reported to have been treated for dizziness and nausea on Tuesday.

But more students were referred to hospital on Wednesday in various governorates, partly in the wake of the media coverage which heightened people's concerns.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that two students in Ramtha, and 23 students in Jerash, and 23 students in Salt were all referred to hospital complaining of nausea, fever and headache.

They were all dismissed, Petra reported.

"I visited six children still at the Jordan University Hospital and I have seen that they present only minor symptoms," Ajlouni said, adding that all six were expected to be dismissed later in the day.

Three children were still hospitalised at Queen Alia Military Hospital, but they were also expected to be dismissed soon, according to the minister.

Twenty-five students from a public school in Abu Alanda were referred to Al Bashir Hospital yesterday.

"They were complaining of very minor symptoms, such as headache and little swelling, and none of them was admitted into hospital," the minister said.

The investigating team was also receiving reports of students complaining of low fever, headaches and local swelling from different governorates, but "the cases are sporadic and all minor," Ajlouni stressed.

'Shots could have been slightly contaminated with vaccines for other diseases'

8 Arabs, 3 Israeli soldiers injured in Hebron attack

HEBRON (AFP) — Eight Palestinians and three Israeli soldiers were injured when two crude bombs were thrown at an Israeli army vehicle in this West Bank town on Wednesday, witnesses and doctors said.

Three Israeli soldiers in an army jeep were wounded, one seriously, in the attack carried out with two home-made explosive devices in the Jewish settler enclave in the West Bank town, they said.

Doctors at a Hebron hospi-

tal told AFP that eight Palestinian passers-by were also hurt in the blasts.

Two cars belonging to Palestinians were set ablaze, witnesses said.

Hebron is a flashpoint for Israeli-Arab violence due to the presence of some 400 Jewish settlers in the city of 120,000 Palestinians.

A Palestinian opened fire with a pistol on Monday on a group of Israelis visiting the Jewish settlement in Hebron, wounding a 40-year-old

woman in the leg.

The Palestinian shot at the group, made up mostly of high school students, as they walked along a road joining two quarters of the Jewish settler enclave which is located in the heart of Hebron.

Israel withdrew from most of Hebron in January 1997 under interim peace accords with the Palestinians, but its army remains in control of one-fifth of the city where the settlers live.

'Islamist killed by double agent'

RAMALLAH (AFP) — An Israeli-Arab double agent detonated the bomb which killed a Hamas Islamist here on Tuesday and wounded two others, a senior Palestinian security official charged Wednesday.

The official, who requested anonymity, said that the bomb had been given to Hamas Islamist Zahran Zahran by an Israeli-Arab arms dealer known as Abu Fahed who is believed to have been working for the Israeli secret service Shin Bet.

Zahran was killed instantly and two other members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) wounded when the bomb exploded in the trunk of their car, a Volkswagen Golf with Israeli licence plates. All three were members of Hamas wanted by both Israeli and Palestinian security services.

Palestinian security sources said the bomb may have been intended for a suicide attack on Israel to coincide with Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement which began at sundown Tuesday.

Fahed, originally from the village of Taybeh, north of Tel Aviv, triggered the bomb by remote control as soon as it had been placed in the trunk of the vehicle, the Palestinian official said.

He said Fahed, who had sold weapons to Zahran in the past, had also given him the three pistols, two grenades and other explosives which were found in the car.

He condemned the operation by the Israeli secret service and said it "seriously heightens tension and harms Palestinian security."

Zahran was buried in the West Bank village of Biddu on Wednesday at a funeral attended by some 2,000 people.

One Palestinian was wounded by rubber coated bullets when Israeli soldiers fired on stone-throwing youths during the funeral, witnesses said.

Hamas is opposed to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's peace deals with Israel and has claimed responsibility for bomb attacks which have killed scores of Israelis in recent years.

Arafat banking on U.S. pressure on Israel to break peace deadlock

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, by making concessions in a bid to break the Middle East peace stalemate, is gambling that Washington will also pressure Israel to compromise, analysts said Wednesday.

Arafat accepted Tuesday a plan for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank that falls well short of his demands, and also refrained from announcing at the United Nations that he would proclaim an independent state next May.

However, he has yet to define precise security arrangements to accompany the long-overdue Israeli pullout from more of the West Bank, the key stumbling block to an accord between Israel and the Palestinians.

While the talks in Washington this week failed to achieve concrete results, the White House expressed hope that they would accelerate the push for a deal.

Arafat announced after meeting U.S. President Bill Clinton on Tuesday that he had agreed to the so-called "10 plus three" deal under which Israel would withdraw from 10 per cent of the West Bank and another three per cent would be designated a "nature reserve" with limited Palestinian sovereignty.

"The Palestinians agreed to this formula several weeks ago. The new element is that Arafat announced it publicly," said Palestinian political analyst Hassan Ghathib.

In return, Arafat hopes that the Americans will put pressure on Israel to also make concessions to break the 18-month stalemate in peace talks, during a summit to be held in Washington next month, Ghathib said.

"But the risk is that during this summit it will be the Palestinians who are subjected to

Mubarak: Monicagate scandal crippling U.S. policy towards Israel

CAIRO (AFP) — The White House sex-and-lies scandal has crippled U.S. policy-making and prevented the United States from confronting Israel, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published Wednesday.

"What is happening there is disgusting and the way it was broadcast by the media has fuelled this disgust," Mubarak said in reference to the affair between U.S. President Bill Clinton and former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

"This scandal is disrupting even greater pressure without any gains," he added.

"This danger exists but Arafat will be well looked after and accompanied by a large delegation," countered a senior Palestinian official.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross are due in occupied Jerusalem on October 6 to prepare for the three-way summit with Clinton, Arafat and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The mid-October summit is being billed as another Camp David, in reference to the historic 1978 meeting between the Israeli and Egyptian leaders at the U.S. presidential retreat that bore the first Israeli-Arab peace accord.

But the Palestinian official charged that Netanyahu did not really want a deal on a West Bank withdrawal, which Israel

is required to make under signed accords with the Palestinians.

"He was counting on a categorical 'no' from the Palestinians which would allow him to put the blame on them for the failure of negotiations. But the authority will not allow him to play that game," the official said.

Netanyahu left Washington Monday after reportedly refusing Clinton's plea for a public agreement on the 13 per cent figure, though Israeli officials said privately that they had accepted the deal, as long as the three per cent is designated a nature reserve.

Palestinian negotiators have expressed guarded optimism about the peace process, saying that the White House was committed to guaranteeing full implementation of the five-year-old Oslo peace accords.

Crashed El Al cargo jet carried raw material for deadly sarin gas

AMSTERDAM (AP) — An Israeli El Al cargo jet that crashed in Amsterdam six years ago was carrying chemicals used to produce the deadly sarin nerve gas, a Dutch newspaper reported Wednesday.

The plane was carrying 190 liters of the chemical identified as dimethyl methylphosphonate when it crashed into an apartment block outside Amsterdam in 1992, according to the respected national daily NRC Handelsblad.

Citing a freight document, the newspaper said the chemical came from

an American company in Pennsylvania and was headed for the Israel Institute for Biological Research in Ness Ziona near Tel Aviv.

The U.S. company was identified as Solkatronic Chemicals Inc. in Morrisville, Pennsylvania.

A copy of the document was printed on the front page of the newspaper, which did not say how it acquired the document.

Nearly six years after the accident, controversies still surround the plane's cargo, despite repeated investigations. Ahead of the report, the

Dutch Parliament announced Thursday it will launch a parliamentary inquiry into the accident.

According to NRC, the amount of dimethyl methylphosphonate on board was enough to produce up to 270 kilograms of the nerve gas.

The raw material is also used in building materials as a flame retardant.

Four main components are needed for the production of sarin and three of them were on board the El Al jet, said the daily.

The newspaper said it was not clear whether the

burning of these chemicals following the accident was to blame for health complaints by residents near the crash site.

The Boeing 747-200 crashed into an apartment complex in southern Amsterdam on Oct. 4, 1992, killing 43 people. Israeli officials said earlier the plane did not carry any dangerous materials.

A spokesman for the Dutch Transport Ministry declined comment on the report, saying all the details concerning the plane's cargo were announced previously.

Aziz sounds out U.N. members over resuming Iraqi cooperation

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz on Wednesday continued to sound out members of the U.N. Security Council on a deal for resuming cooperation with U.N. arms inspectors.

Aziz met Wednesday with Britain's permanent representative, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, after a working dinner the previous night with representatives from three of the four other permanent

members of the council, Russia, France and China. Diplomats say Aziz has signalled in his meetings his willingness to meet U.N. demands that Iraq resume cooperation with U.N. arms inspectors, which Baghdad halted on August 5.

But before Iraq does so, Aziz is looking to win "guarantees and details" concerning a comprehensive review of international sanctions promised by the

Security Council, a western diplomat told AFP. "The Iraqis want a time frame and to know exactly what needs to be done," to obtain a lifting of U.N. sanctions, another diplomat said.

The Security Council has said Iraq must resume cooperation with inspectors as a precondition before the United Nations will conduct a comprehensive review of Iraq's compliance with

sanctions imposed on it since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Aziz is due to meet U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Friday for the second time this week after he completes his consultations.

He has met all of the permanent Security Council members except the United States as well as representatives from many of the 10 non-permanent members.

Qatar submits report to World Court on disputed islands

DOHA (AP) — Qatar submitted a report Wednesday to the International Court of Justice, seeking to refute Bahrain's allegations that it used forged documents to stake claim over disputed territories.

The report provides proof that the ownership documents it submitted to the World Court were authentic, said a Qatari official who spoke on condition of anonymity. He did not give details.

Neighbours Bahrain and Qatar have been feuding since the mid-1980s over water boundaries, the Hawar islands in the Gulf and the Zubara land strip in Qatar where Bahrain's royal family used to live 200 years ago.

Qatar was asked by the World Court to provide an interim report "as comprehensive and specific as possible" by Sept. 30 in reply to allegations in April by Bahrain's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa.

Sheikh Mohammad told the World Court, which is based in the Hague, Netherlands, that 10 international experts who examined 75 Qatari documents found them to be forged.

Earlier this year, Bahrain unveiled plans to develop and link the Hawar Islands to the mainland with a 22.5-kilometre bridge.

Bahrain has already constructed a hotel on the tourist resort island and launched a hovercraft service last year.

U.N. Gulf war compensation body awards \$691 million

GENEVA (AFP) — The U.N. commission handling 1990 Gulf war compensation claims Wednesday awarded almost \$691 million to thousands of individuals affected by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The U.N. Compensation Commission (UNCC) made available \$519.5 million to 207,808 claimants who had been forced to depart these countries following Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's attempt to annex Kuwait.

These are known as category "A" claims. The UNCC's governing council, currently holding its 29th session in Geneva, also granted \$171.2 million earmarked for 70,557 individuals

covering individual losses of up to \$100,000. These fall into the "C" bracket. These payments, which represent the fourth instalment of category "A" and "C" payouts, bring the overall amount of compensation handed out by the UNCC to date to almost \$1.92 billion.

The funding comes from the 30 per cent share of revenue allocated to the UNCC from Iraqi oil sales under the U.N. "oil-for-food" deal.

Under this programme, Iraq is currently allowed to sell \$5.2 billion worth of crude every six months in return for humanitarian supplies.

However, Iraq, which has been under U.N. sanctions since its invasion of Kuwait, said the most it could produce, given its dilapidated oil industry and low oil prices, was \$4.5 billion worth.

Claimants receive an initial payment of up to \$2,500 each. The UNCC has ruled that all Category "A" and "C" claims be honoured first before corporations, governments or individuals with claims greater than \$100,000 are compensated.

The UNCC had completed payouts of \$13.5 million for category "B" claims covering individuals' injuries and death by 1995.

Press group urges release of Syrian writer

AMMAN (R) — A U.S.-based press freedoms group has called for the release of jailed Syrian journalist Nizar Nayyuf, saying he was gravely ill and had been detained solely for speaking out about human rights in Syria.

The Committee to Protect Journalists said Nayyuf was arrested in 1992 and sentenced to 10 years in prison. It said he was suffering from cancer and had been refused treatment by Syrian authorities.

"[We] have recently learned

that Nayyuf is gravely ill and may die unless he receives immediate treatment for Hodgkin's disease, a form of cancer that can be cured with the proper medical attention," the group wrote in a letter it said was hand-delivered to Foreign Minister Farouk Sharaa on Tuesday.

"We are aware that Syrian authorities have refused him treatment for this disease unless he pledges to refrain from political activity and renounces alleged 'false statements' he made about the

human rights situation in Syria," it said.

A copy of the letter, signed by former hostage Terry Anderson who was held in Lebanon for seven years, was faxed to Reuters in Jordan.

The group said Nayyuf was also suffering from kidney failure and paralysis of his "lower extremities."

Nayyuf is a member of the Committee for the Defence of Democratic Freedoms and Human Rights in Syria and editor of its monthly Sawt Al Demokratiyya.

'Four Algerian soldiers killed'

ALGIERS (R) — Four Algerian soldiers and 18 Muslim rebels were killed in a weekend battle which lasted about 12 hours in the southwest of the country, newspapers said on Wednesday.

Troops surrounded the guerrilla hideout last week before the fighting took place between Sunday and Monday in the province of Saïda, Le Matin daily said.

Algerian state-run television,

quoting government security forces, said on Tuesday 15 rebels were killed but did not report any government casualties.

In another incident, two civilians were killed on Monday in a bomb explosion in Siseif area in Sid Bel Abbes province, 370 km west of Algiers, Al Khabar newspaper said on Wednesday.

Al Khabar said members of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), Algeria's ruthless guer-

rilla faction, planted the bomb. The reported blast was the latest in a series of bombings in the past six years in which thousands of civilians have died in the North African country.

A bomb exploded on Sunday near a school in Khemiss town, 100 km (62 miles) west of Algiers, killing eight people, including four schoolboys, and wounding 24 others, according to newspapers and security forces.



VOICES IN THE WILDERNESS ON MISSION: U.S. activist Chuck Quilty, a member of the Voices in the Wilderness group, which is campaigning against sanctions on Iraq. Wednesday holds up pictures of Iraqi children at a news conference in Jordan. Quilty said most of the children in the recently-taken pictures had died because of food or medical shortages caused by the sanctions. Voices in the Wilderness has urged U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to scrap the eight-year sanctions, which it said was destroying a whole generation of Iraqis (Reuters photo)

'Saudi Arabia froze relations with Taliban over Ben Laden'

RIYADH (AFP) — A Saudi newspaper which reflects official opinion, said on Wednesday that the kingdom froze relations with the Taliban militia in Afghanistan over its support for Saudi dissident Osama Ben Laden.

"Can we continue to accept the Taliban's position and to encourage them, even as they give asylum and protection to allow terrorists to proclaim their acts to the media?" the Okaz daily said.

"The kingdom can no longer accept the Taliban's procrastinations, nor the fact that they are avoiding their responsibilities by sheltering terrorists and criminals," the daily said.

It was the first comment from a Saudi newspaper on the issue since Riyadh expelled the Taliban's charge d'affaires from the kingdom on Sept. 23 and recalled its own charge d'affaires from Kabul.

"We were surprised that they (the Taliban) opened

their arms and welcomed Ben Laden after his departure from Sudan. They allowed him to claim responsibility for terrorist acts," the newspaper said.

Ben Laden has been accused by the U.S. State Department of being responsible for anti-U.S. bombings in Saudi Arabia as well as last month's twin U.S. embassy bombings in east Africa.

Five U.S. soldiers were killed in a 1995 attack in Riyadh and another 19 died in June 1996 in a bombing at their barracks in Khobar, near the eastern city of Dhahran.

Ben Laden, a shadowy millionaire was rejected by his homeland of Saudi Arabia in 1994 for supporting violent Islamic groups in Egypt and Algeria and is now in exile in Afghanistan.

Okaz said that instead of "building their regime on a sound base and seeking international weight, the Taliban have transformed Afghanistan into a centre for

exporting terrorism." "We were shocked by the fact that have not revised their attitude despite the advice that has been given to them. They have instead opted for a confrontation with the world," the daily said.

"The Taliban's government is sacrificing Afghanistan and by its behaviour it is leading its country towards chaos," Okaz said, calling on the militia's leadership to "regain their senses" and "preserve what remains of their country and their people."

Saudi Arabia formally recognised the Taliban as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan in May, following a similar decision by Pakistan. The United Arab Emirates is the only other country to recognise the militia.

But relations between Saudi Arabia and the Taliban have grown strained in recent months, with Riyadh saying it does not approve of the militia's brand of extremism.

Palestinian opposition slams Arafat

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Two Palestinian opposition groups slammed Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Wednesday for making concessions to Israel in accepting the latest U.S. plan for an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

"Arafat has made new concessions in accepting Israeli conditions, indicating that the Palestinian National Authority is following a policy destructive to the national rights of the

Palestinian people," a statement issued by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) in Damascus said. "We will continue the struggle by all means to regain full Palestinian national rights," the PFLP added.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) charged Arafat with having accepted Israeli conditions of only a 10 per cent withdrawal of its forces from the West Bank.

This leaves "Palestinian land to the colonisers and forgets Jerusalem, the Palestinians of the diaspora and border and water disputes," the DFLP, which is also Damascus-based, said in a statement.

The DFLP called for a referendum in the Palestinian territories and "the formulation of a new strategy (for the region) based on international resolutions and not on partial agreements."

Court annuls regulations on school exam cheating

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Higher Court of Justice Wednesday annulled regulations on cheating during the tawjihi (public high school exams) that were recently issued by the Ministry of Education.

In a court session chaired by Judge Abdullah Murad and attended by Jamil Haddadin, Mushab Diah, Haitham Gharaibeh and Samir Qudah, the tribunal said the decision was made by a committee that had no authority to issue such regulations.

The general examinations committee annulled the test results of a student and prevented him from taking the examinations this year and next year.

The court said the regulations implemented by the committee in cases of cheating are illegal and are not in line with Article 23 of the Education Law, which gives authority in the minister of education to issue such regulations.

Since the regulations were issued by the examinations committee, which had no authority to do so, the decision to prevent Omar Jariri from taking his exams this year and next year is illegal. Consequently, the penalty imposed on the student was cancelled because the committee was not delegated the authority to issue such regulations.

The defendant's attorney, Hani Dahleh, said the ministry's law gives the minister the authority to issue rules and regulations regarding cheating on general examinations. Dahleh noted that the regulations have been in force for three years without being endorsed by the minister of education.

He said the decision will be relayed to the ministry to decide whether the student can take the exam this year or next year.

During an investigation conducted by an investigation panel this summer, Jariri admitted that he cheated during one of the examinations, saying that he wrote his colleague's name on his test paper instead of his name.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19
PROGRAMME TWO
Thursday Programmes

15:10Cartoon — Animated Hero Classics

15:30Drama — Star Runner

16:00Doc. — L'Ecole des Fans

16:30Doc. — Blue Water Dreaming

17:00NBA

18:15Sliders

19:00Le Journal

19:15Science Magazine — (L'oeuf De Colomb)

19:30News Headlines

19:35Comedy — Family Matters

20:00The Great Romances

20:30Drama — Dr. Quinn the Medicine Woman

21:10Oprah Winfrey

22:00News in English

22:30Feature film — "Aliens"

23:59Comedy — Can't Hurry Love

00:30End of T.X.

Friday Programmes

15:10Cartoon — The Adventures of Teddy Ruxpin

15:30The Borrowers

16:00Feature film — "Tornado"

18:15French quiz show — Les Cles de Fort Boyard

19:00Le Journal

19:15French Programme — Allo La Terre

19:30News Headlines

19:35Comedy — The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air

20:00Life on the Digital Edge

20:30Doc. — The Seven Wonders of the World

21:10Babylon-5

22:00News in English

22:30The X Files (Ep.7)

23:10Big Sky — Lost and

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Found 23:59End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:08Fajr
05:25(Sunrise) Duha
11:25Dhuhr
14:09'Asr
17:26Maghreb
18:43Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
4632785

St. Joseph Church Tel.
4624590

Terra Sancta Church Tel.
4622366

Anglican Church Tel.
4624853/4624811

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox
Church Tel. 4771751

Amman International Church
Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 5688404

The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 5811295

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints Tel. 4654932

St. John the Baptist at De la
Salle College Tel. 5661757

Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel.
4646138

Church of Presentation, Sweifeh
Tel. 5920146

The Uniate Catholic Church

Tel. 4624757
The English-Language
Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel.
4892679
The Baptist Church Tel.
4628052
The Armenian Catholic
Church Tel. 4771331
The Armenian Orthodox
Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department
of Meteorology

Temperatures are expected to
drop gradually becoming moderate
during the day and fine at
night with temperatures slightly
lower than average. Clouds
will appear at low altitudes
and winds northwesterly moderate
to active. In Aqaba, temperatures
are expected to dip with moderate weather conditions
prevailing, winds
northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Amman17/27

Aqaba22/34

Deserts15/30

Jordan Valley21/33

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 36

Humidity readings: Amman
31 per cent, Aqaba 51 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures
expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun25
Jerash31
Um Qays30
Madaba29
Petra30
Dead Seas36

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abbas Haklan4885446
Dr. Arafat Ashhab5620507
Dr. Jamal Jorash5347351
Dr. Ayman Al Muhtaseb4875748
Firas pharmacy5661912
Ferdows pharmacy778336
Al Asema pharmacy4637055
Nairookh pharmacy4623672
Al Salam pharmacy4636730
Yacoub pharmacy4644945
Shmeisani pharmacy4637660
Najib pharmacy5347632
IRBID:
Dr. Lutfi Shalabi341798
AI Quds pharmacy(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Hilal Al Sayyid3852902
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre4637111
Civil Defence Department5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue
.....4630341
Civil Defence Emergency199
Rescue Police 1924621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade4617101
Blood Bank4775121

Highway Police5343402
Traffic Police4896390
Public Security Dept.4630321
Hotel Complaints5605800
Price Complaints5661176
Water & Sewage Complaints4874967
Amman Municipality Complaints
.....4787111
Telephone Information (directory
assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs5661101
Jordan Television4773111
Radio Jordan4774111
Water Authority5680100
J. Electricity Authority5815615
Electric Power Co.4636381
RJ Flight Information44-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special
Surgery 5921199
The Islamic Abdi5666131/7
Hussien Medical Centre Tel.
5836856
Luzmila4630195
Khalidi Maternity4644281/6
Akileh Maternity4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman.4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani5607071
Shmeisani Hospital5669131
University Hospital5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajireen4777101/3
Al-Bashir4775111/26
Army, Marka4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50

Amal Hospital5674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital
(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital
(09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital
(09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital
(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital
(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital
(02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital
(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by
Royal Jordanian (RJ) information
department at the Queen
Alia International Airport Tel.
(44)53200 where it should
always be verified.
Information on other flights are
supplied on phone 44 (52700) or
44 (53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
08:15Sanaa (RJ)
08:45New Delhi (RJ)
09:00Bombay (RJ)
09:05Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:25Beirut (RJ)

09:40Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:00Colombo (RJ)
10:30London (RJ)
16:45New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:45Kuwait (RJ)
18:10Athens (RJ)
18:20Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
18:45Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
22:55Larnaca (RJ)

Other Flights
07:55Dubai (EK)
10:00Kuwait (KU)
12:00Riyadh (SV)
13:10Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
14:10Sharjah (AH)
14:40Doha (QR)
17:40Beirut (ME)
18:00Paris (AF)
19:25Tel Aviv (LY)
20:00Cairo (MS)
20:10London (BA)
22:20Istanbul (TK)
22:35Larnaca (CY)
23:05Moscow (SU)
00:15Amsterdam, Beirut (KL)
03:20Tunis (TU)
04:20Antalia (TK)

Royal Wings (RW)
(For Thursday and Friday)
09:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA
and proceeding to Marka Air-
port) (RW)
17:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka
Airport on Thursday and Friday)
(RW)
19:20Tel Aviv (arriving
at QAIA on Friday only,
(RW)
21:35 Tel Aviv (arriving at
QAIA on Thursday only) (RW)
22:25 Aqaba (from Marka Air-
port) (RW)

Royal Wings
(For Thursday and Friday)
07:00 Aqaba (from Marka Air-
port) (RW)
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Air-
port on Thursday and Friday)
(RW)
19:45 Tel Aviv (from QAIA—
on Thursday only) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from QAIA)
(RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
05:45Beirut (RJ)
10:35Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:15Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:20Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:45Kuwait (RJ)
12:10Paris (RJ)
12:20Athens (RJ)
12:25London (RJ)
19:35Larnaca (RJ)
20:15Cairo (RJ)
20:25Jeddah (RJ)
21:00Dubai (RJ)
23:30Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta (RJ)

Other Flights
05:15Istanbul (TK)
06:50Frankfurt (LH)
07:20London (BA)
08:55Dubai (EK)
08:55Damascus, Dubai (RJ)
11:00Kuwait (KU)
13:30Riyadh (SV)
14:00Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00Annabab, Algiers (AF)
15:30Doha (QR)
19:00Beirut (ME)
20:10Tel Aviv (LY)
21:00Cairo (MS)
00:30Moscow (SU)
01:15Amsterdam (KL)
04:20Beirut, Tunis (TU)

Royal Wings
(For Thursday and Friday)
07:00 Aqaba (from Marka Air-
port) (RW)
08:3

Majko consults parties on forming new Albanian government

TIRANA (AFP) — Prime Minister-designate Pandeli Majko Wednesday opened talks to form a new broad-based coalition government, but opposition leaders called for more protests against the ruling Socialists.

Majko, who was approved as premier by President Rexhep Meidani Tuesday night following the surprise resignation of fellow Socialist Fatos Nano, began talks Wednesday with representatives of other political parties.

Majko, 30, told AFP: "I have begun consultations which will continue throughout the day."

"The composition of the new government will be announced as soon as possible, today or tomorrow (Thursday) or later."

Majko said Tuesday marked "the end of the political crisis" in Albania. But his optimism was not shared by the opposition Democratic Party (DP) led by the country's former President Sali Berisha, which called for a demonstration in the central Skenderbeg square at 6:00 p.m. (1600 GMT) Wednesday, according to a statement in the Rilindja demokratike newspaper.

DP public relations secretary Vili Minarolli told AFP that his party was going to "continue demonstrations until a final solution was

found to the political crisis in Albania."

"For the democrats, nothing has changed except the names. The only solution is an interim government formed from a meeting of all parties chaired by Meidani, which would approve a new constitution and prepare new elections," Minarolli added.

Berisha said Tuesday his party did not want to be part of the new government but would support the measures taken by the government "to restore public order, confiscate firearms from the public and (reinforce) national security."

Nano's resignation followed his failure to form a new coalition government capable of ending a showdown marked by bloody street protests, which flared up after the assassination on Sept. 12 of DP deputy leader Azem Hajdari. The clashes between security forces and DP supporters left four dead and 80 wounded.

Majko said his new government would be made up of members of the ruling coalition but it would remain "open to independent intellectuals or representatives of other parties."

Besides Majko's Socialist Party (SP), the ruling coalition includes the Democratic Alliance, the Social Democratic Party,

the Human Rights Party and the Agricultural Party.

The new government's priority would be the approval of a new constitution, which is "essential to allow Albania to become a democratic country," said Majko.

He said another aim would be to bring the country "out of the urgent state it is in and restore public order."

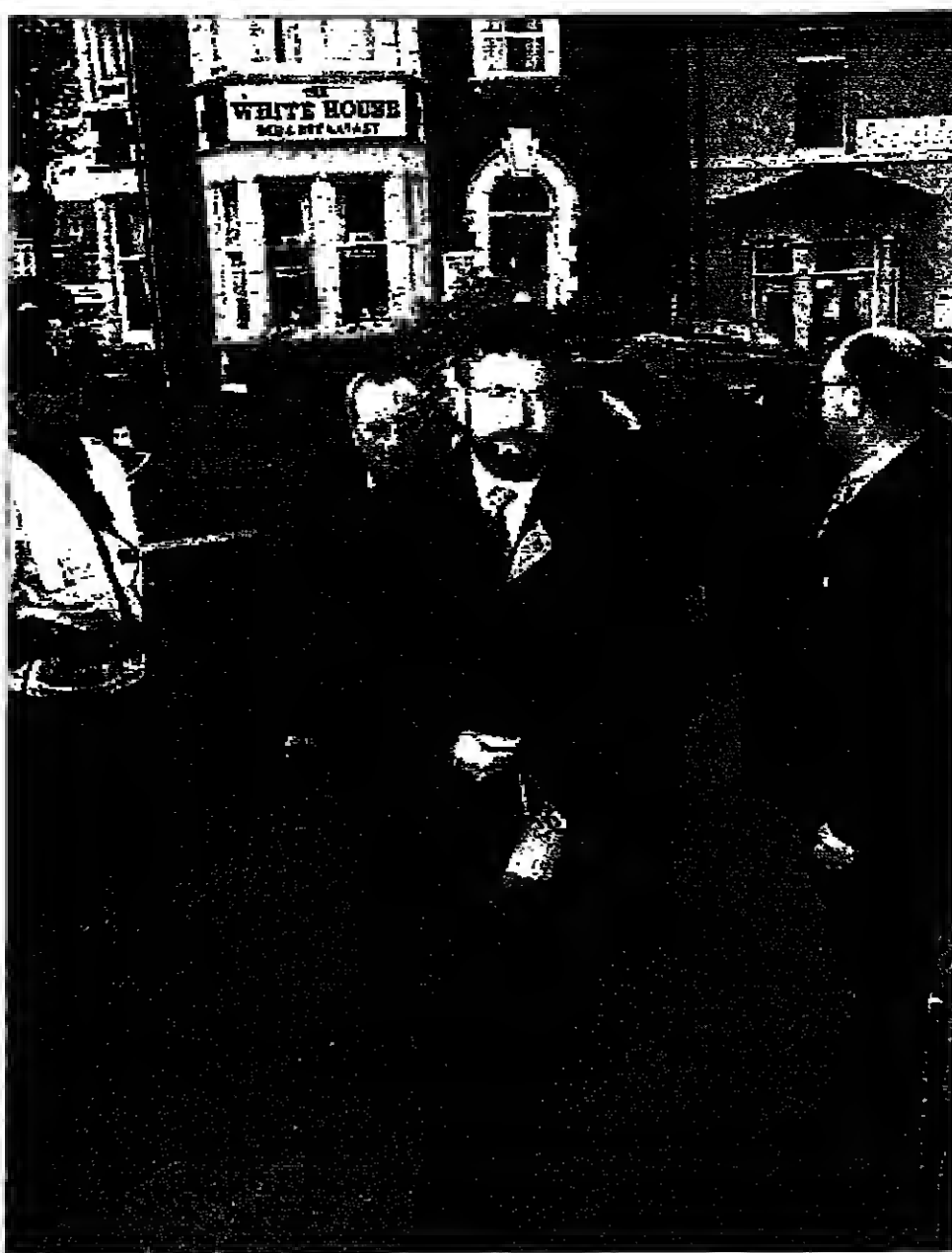
The prime minister-designate said he was prepared to begin "a constructive dialogue with the opposition" and announced "big changes" in the ministries of the interior, finance, justice and the civil service.

Albanian chief of police Hasan Ahmetaj said Wednesday his officers remained on a state of alert "in order to prevent any trouble."

The country's police was placed on maximum alert on Sept. 14, when the riots in Tirana reached their highpoint, Ahmetaj told AFP.

"The police is still on the highest level of alert. It is being supported by rapid intervention forces (a special unit) and by the military police which has been under the control of the ministry of the interior for the last few days," he said.

The situation in the country was "relatively calm" Wednesday.



Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams arrives at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool for the Labour Conference where he is to talk with British Prime Minister Tony Blair (AFP photo)

Adams hopeful N. Irish arms row can be solved

BLACKPOOL, England (R) — Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams Wednesday signalled he was optimistic a row over stockpiles of guerrilla arms that has cast a shadow over the Northern Ireland peace process could soon be resolved.

After a 50-minute meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who is in Blackpool at his Labour Party's annual conference, Adams played down talk that the peace process was in crisis and said there was time to resolve the problem. "Clearly we have the space to sort this out if the political will is there and Sinn Féin has that will," he told reporters after the meeting.

The row erupted after Northern Ireland's First Minister, Protestant David Trimble, said he wanted to see the IRA, which fought for years to end British rule in the province, start handing over its weapons before Adams takes his seat on the ruling executive in the new devolved Northern Ireland Assembly.

He noted that some guerrillas have already been released from prison and some British troops have departed from the province even though the IRA has not banded over any arms.

But Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, has said the peace agreement gives it two years to complete the decommissioning.

While there is no deadline for appointing 10 ministers to head new government departments, the Good Friday agreement states a new cross-border body with the southern Irish Republic should meet by October 31.

In the row, Trimble has also found himself at odds with deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon, deputy leader of the moderate republican SDLP party, who backed Adams' position.

Trimble, who is leader of the pro-British Ulster Unionist Party, and Mallon will hold separate talks with Blair later Wednesday. Tuesday Trimble also sounded a note of optimism that a resolution might be in sight.

"I hope and believe it is possible for us to overcome this problem and I remain fundamentally optimistic about the peace process," he told a fringe meeting.

While Blair may help ease the stalemate at his meetings Wednesday, an agreement is unlikely before a face-to-face meeting between Trimble and Adams later this week.

Blair's official spokesman said the Prime Minister remained confident the political will was there among the key players to resolve the issue, but said a solution was unlikely Wednesday.

Before the meeting, Blair said he would deliver a firm reminder to Adams that handing over weapons was also part of the political settlement.

"I will be saying what I've always said that the agreement is the agreement, all of it's got to be implemented, not simply any part of it — decommissioning is part of the agreement," Blair told BBC Television.

Scientists isolate immune system on/off switch

LONDON (R) — Scientists have isolated a gene which they believe acts as an on/off switch for the body's immune system, promising new ways of treating conditions ranging from cancer to Crohn's Disease, the British company behind the breakthrough said Tuesday.

Researchers at the U.S. arm of Chiroscience Group Plc are also close to locating a second gene which could reverse bone wasting caused by osteoporosis, a condition which affects millions of people over 60 and leads to more than one million fractures in the U.S. every year.

Research and Development Director Robert Jackson said uncovering the gene which regulates the body's immune response could one day lead to development of a whole new range of drugs.

"Sometimes you want to turn it off and sometimes you want to turn it on," Jackson told Reuters. Turning the immune

system on or off could help in conditions like AIDS and cancer, where the body's efforts to fight off tumours are currently too weak.

"If we could strengthen that, we could develop drugs to help the body react to tumours," Jackson said.

But switching it off or down might be useful in a range of diseases caused by an overly fierce immune response — such as rheumatoid arthritis, diabetes, psoriasis, Crohn's Disease, ulcerative colitis and allergy.

Gene-based research at the former Darwin Molecular business in Seattle, Washington, which Chiroscience bought in 1996, is also close to locating a mutant gene which may offer a way of reversing the effects of osteoporosis for the first time.

Scientists are studying around 100 people and their families in South Africa with extremely strong bones caused by a mutant gene which causes bone density to increase

as people age — the exact opposite of osteoporosis. "We are close to identifying a unique bone structure gene for osteoporosis," Chief Executive Officer John Padfield told Reuters.

"All other treatments try to stop bone loss getting worse."

What our gene appears to do is increase bone density very substantially — if it turns out to be true when we test a drug, that would be a revolutionary treatment for osteoporosis."

The company announced the discoveries as part of a day-long update on its research and development activities. Shares in Chiroscience were up 7 per cent or 17 1/2 per cent in early afternoon trading in London.

Chiroscience said it will also work with the small British genome company Gemini Research, which has built up a database of genetic information based on identical twins. The two companies are to look for mutant genes linked to obesity.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three Indian soldiers killed on Kashmir border

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Three Indian soldiers were killed in clashes with Pakistani troops at two border outposts in the disputed Himalayan state of Kashmir, defence sources said here Wednesday. Sources said two army personnel were killed when they were hit by artillery shells fired by Pakistani troops in Kargil, some 200 kilometres from here. "It was once again indiscriminate and unprovoked shelling by Pakistani troops," an official said. Another Indian army soldier died in another attack, 100 kilometres north of Srinagar. Civilians have dug underground bunkers to escape shelling, while the majority of the residents have migrated from Kargil and its adjoining villages in the wake of continued skirmishes, sources said. The Indian army retaliated, they said, adding they had no information of casualties on the Pakistani side. Indian and Pakistani troops routinely clash on the Kashmir border, and some 125 people died in eight days of artillery duels earlier this month. Kashmir, a Muslim-majority state, is claimed by both countries and has plagued relations since their 1947 independence, sparking two wars. New Delhi accuses Islamabad of arming and training Muslim guerrillas fighting to secede from India. Pakistan denies the charge.

Earthquake rattles Belgrade

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale shook Belgrade and other parts of the Balkans early Wednesday, shutting off electricity temporarily, rattling buildings and sending frightened residents into the streets. There were no reports of significant damage during the quake, which struck about 12:15 a.m. (2215 Tuesday GMT). But the independent B-92 Radio said one man died of a heart attack during the quake near the town of Valjevo. At least 17 people were injured, many of them tumbling down darkened staircases as they fled into the streets. Officials said the quake was centred near Cacak about 85 kilometres south of Belgrade. In central Serbia, authorities warned people to avoid drinking tap water because the sewerage system may have been damaged. Schools were closed in the area Wednesday. Callers to Belgrade radio stations asked whether NATO had attacked. The Alliance has threatened possible military action unless the government halts its crackdown of ethnic Albanian separatists in the southern province of Kosovo. In neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina, people fled into the streets of the capital Sarajevo, despite a heavy downpour. The quake was also felt in parts of Croatia.

Cause of oil spill off San Francisco Bay still a mystery

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — An 8,740-litre oil spill that threatens to destroy one of the largest breeding sites for marine life outside Alaska has already killed at least nine birds. About 760 litres of the oil slick had been sucked up Tuesday at the site 16 kilometres off San Francisco, said Dana Michaels, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Fish and Game. The Coast Guard was expected to resume the "cleanup" effort Wednesday morning to protect the Farallon Islands, a nearby collection of barren rocks that are home to thousands of birds and sea lions. Investigators were comparing samples of the thick, heavy oil sent to a federal pollution lab with samples from ships that had recently travelled through the same waters. The spill, first reported Monday night, occurred at the end of the breeding season, when hundreds of thousands of birds gather in large flocks to teach newborns how to feed themselves. By Tuesday the slick had broken up into baseball-sized balls and patches as large as 2.4 metres clustered over 1.6 metres, Michaels said. Coming off that was a sheer about 16 kilometres long. Coast Guard and other environmental officials Tuesday night were watching San Mateo County, just south of the city, to see whether the slick would reach shore, Michaels said. No one has taken responsibility for the spill, which was first reported by a vessel that moved through the area Monday. Low visibility hampered helicopters trying to get an overview of the situation. Governor Pete Wilson signed legislation Tuesday prohibiting large transport ships from entering state waters unless the owner or operator has an approved oil spill contingency plan.

Impressionist paintings recovered, curator central suspect

NICE, France (AP) — Police have recovered two valuable Impressionist paintings stolen 10 days ago in what appears to have been a staged heist and arrested the museum curator for alleged armed robbery, police sources said Wednesday. Two other people, described as small-time thugs, also were arrested in connection with the Sept. 21 theft of a Monet and a Sisley at the Fine Arts Museum of Nice, according to the sources in the judicial police. They spoke on customary condition of anonymity. The art works, Claude Monet's 1897 painting "The Cliffs of Dieppe" and Alfred Sisley's 1890 work "The Alley of the Poplars," were found on a sail boat anchored in the small Riviera port of Saint Laurent du Var, police said. The police sources said that curator Jean Forneris is suspected of having ordered the theft. The paintings were stolen by two masked men who took Forneris from his home, drove him to the museum, then bound and gagged him, the caretaker and another employee and shut them in the museum library. The museum alarm had been turned off, allegedly because the caretaker was on duty. The two men sped off in the curator's car with the paintings. Forneris later expressed his "shock" at the thefts.

No hunt necessary for hungry alligator

VICTORIA, Texas (AP) — Animal control officers didn't have to go out to respond to calls of a wayward alligator — the gator came to them. When workers arrived at the Victoria County Animal Control Centre Tuesday, they found a hungry 2-metre alligator waiting outside. The reptile was apparently eyeing the cats and dogs in the shelter. "It's kind of like being in McDonald's drive-through, but you can't have the Big Mac," said shelter manager Roberta Fisher Tuesday. The gator fought animal control officers, but they finally managed to subdue it. The alligator was turned over to a game warden for relocation to a more appropriate bunting ground.

MSF forced to withdraw from North Korea

HONG KONG (AFP) — International relief agency Medecins sans Frontières (MSF) announced Wednesday it had been forced out of North Korea by the Stalinist government which was diverting aid.

The French-based group urged donor governments and other agencies to review aid to North Korea and demand greater accountability from the government.

MSF director general Eric Goemaere said that since early June there had been a clear, high-level policy change to restrict humanitarian aid in the famine-stricken country.

MSF, which had been supporting 1,400 health centres and hospitals, was told North Korea was able to return to self-sufficiency and instead of medicine wanted raw materials supplied to its state pharmaceutical factories.

"In an unexpected move when we had to renegotiate the memorandum of understanding they told us to pull our teams out of the provinces, to stop the distribution of drugs and to continue with a program at the central level," Goemaere said.

"They told us the emergency was over and they want to go back to structural aid," he added.

"Now we are requesting multilateral donor countries to change their aid policy to increase the pressure on the government and to make sure in the future agencies like ours will be able to return to the field," he said.

North Korea, its economy shrinking for almost a decade,

has struggled to feed its people since 1995, when severe flooding devastated the harvest.

Hospitals are now about 75 per cent reliant on Korean herbal medicines, the agency said.

Some reports have spoken of up to three million dead from famine, but Goemaere said this was difficult to confirm as international monitors had consistently been denied access to the provinces.

"In the provinces in which MSF was working we did not see people dying in the streets... certainly nothing like famine in the Sudan," said Rose Marie Pecchio, former MSF head of mission to North Korea.

"I think there is famine in the country but we do not know. We think there are pockets," she said.

Refugees who fled across the border into China told the agency that food distribution had dried up at the beginning of 1994.

"When international aid arrives in North Korea, the cargo is loaded on trucks and sent to army warehouses," one couple with a young child told MSF.

A U.S. Congress delegation report last month estimated the food crisis was claiming between 300,000 to 800,000 lives a year.

MSF said it was convinced food and medical aid was being distributed along political lines, with party faithful receiving food as others starved.

MSF also expressed deep concern about orphans and

homeless children wandering the countryside. It said it was convinced children were being rounded up and put into institutions to which the aid group was refused access.

The agency came across extremely malnourished children in some 64 feeding centres around the country. "We think they are the peak of an iceberg," Goemaere said.

"A huge population of homeless children, a vagabond population who do not benefit from aid, they were for us a definite priority."

"But when we said that, the authorities told us they are not a priority," he added.

Refugees in China told of children in public places with grotesquely swollen heads.

"Their legs are also swollen and straight like pillars from the tops of their thighs to their ankles. Their skin is black and they have skin infections all over their bodies," one witness said.

Goemaere said MSF's withdrawal could throw the country back "almost into human experimentation," meaning doctors do not have drugs to treat serious diseases and if they do have the supplies, they do not know how to use them.

He described horrific conditions in provincial hospitals, where doctors were performing operations without anaesthetic, sterilisation or antibiotics.

The last of the 14-strong MSF team will leave North Korea Thursday after 16 months.

Chrysler sues ISP's over Web address

DETROIT (UPI) — Chrysler Corp. is accusing two Internet service providers of cyberpiracy, claiming they use a slight variation of its Dodge Web address to route net users to pornography.

New York-based Host Networks Inc. and The Net Inc. are defendants in a lawsuit Chrysler filed late Monday in U.S. District Court in Detroit.

The automaker says today it's seeking unspecified damages and a court injunction to shut down

www.foradodge.com, a Web site operated by The Net that provides a link to a porn site. The site address is similar to

Chrysler's 3-year-old marketing Web site www.4adodge.com.

The lawsuit says Host Networks provides Internet users with access to The Net's site.

The Net and Host Networks have 30 days to reply to the suit. Neither company is commenting on Chrysler's charges.

Chrysler attorney Ron Fuller says the suit was filed because "a customer searching for information on a Dodge should not be faced with pornography."

Chrysler claims The Net registered the domain name foradodge.com in December

1996. Since then the automaker has tried to shut it down.

In July, Chrysler says, Host Networks offered to sell foradodge.com to the automaker "for a substantial fee," Chrysler declined.

Chrysler's complaint also claims The Net has "surreptitiously obtained and registered other trademarks including www.cnn.org, www.msnbc.org, www.themini.com, www.nasa.net and www.whitehouse.com."

Earlier this year, Chrysler successfully battled another porn site that used a corporate trademark, knocking it off the Web.

Three Indian soldiers and Pakistani troops are reported to have been killed in a clash on the border between the two countries. The clash occurred in the Kargil region of Jammu and Kashmir, where Indian and Pakistani forces have been fighting since July. The Indian army has claimed that Pakistani troops have infiltrated the region and are building up a strong presence. The Pakistani army has denied this and claims that the Indian army is the aggressor. The clash resulted in the deaths of three Indian soldiers and two Pakistani troops. The Indian army has vowed to continue its operations until the Pakistani troops are completely removed from the region.

attles Belgrade

An earlier clash between the two sides in the capital of Bosnia, Belgrade, resulted in the deaths of several people. The clash occurred in the city's old town, where Serbian and Bosnian forces were fighting. The Bosnian army had been attacking the city, and the Serbian army was trying to defend it. The fighting was intense, and many civilians were caught in the crossfire. The Bosnian army claimed that it had killed several Serbian soldiers, while the Serbian army claimed that it had killed several Bosnian soldiers. The clash was part of a larger conflict between the two sides, which has been going on for several months. The fighting has caused a great deal of destruction in the city, and many people have been displaced. The international community has been trying to mediate the conflict, but so far, no progress has been made.

off San Francisco
a mystery

The disappearance of a small plane off the coast of San Francisco has been a mystery for several days. The plane, a Cessna 441, was last seen on October 1st. It was flying from San Francisco to Los Angeles. The plane was carrying two people, a man and a woman. The man was a pilot, and the woman was a passenger. The plane was last seen about 100 miles off the coast of San Francisco. The search for the plane has been ongoing, but so far, no trace has been found. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has launched an investigation into the disappearance. The FAA is trying to determine what happened to the plane and why it disappeared. The investigation is still in its early stages, and it may take some time to find out what happened.

aintings recovered
entral suspect

Several paintings that were stolen from a museum in the center of a city have been recovered. The paintings were stolen from the museum on September 1st. They were worth a total of about \$1 million. The paintings were recovered on September 10th. The police are still trying to find the person or people who stole the paintings. The police are looking for anyone who has information about the theft. The police are also looking for anyone who has seen the paintings since they were stolen. The paintings are now back in the museum, and the police are trying to determine how they were recovered. The police are also trying to determine who helped the thief to get the paintings out of the museum. The police are still working on the case, and they hope to catch the thief soon.

nt necessary
ngry alligator

A large alligator was found in a swampy area near a city. The alligator was about 10 feet long and weighed about 1,000 pounds. It was found on October 1st. The alligator was found by a local resident who was walking through the swamp. The alligator was found near a body of water. The alligator was found in a swampy area, which is a common habitat for alligators. The alligator was found in a swampy area near a city, which is a common habitat for alligators. The alligator was found on October 1st. The alligator was found by a local resident who was walking through the swamp. The alligator was found near a body of water. The alligator was found in a swampy area, which is a common habitat for alligators.

World News

New Labour quits Blackpool for something less working class

BLACKPOOL, England (AFP) — The British Labour Party this year almost certainly held its last annual conference at Blackpool. After 70 years in which this working class English seaside resort was the venue of choice for the working man's party, Blackpool is suddenly out of step with Tony Blair's "New Labour." Party veterans like to joke that Labour and Blackpool are as inseparable as fish and chips. With its miles of amusements arcades, severe landladies, girls of doubtful virtue and "world famous" illuminations — garlands of lights which decorate the seafront — Blackpool's cheerful tackiness defines the English working class at play. In its heyday in the 1950s and 1960s, the town played host to entire suburbs of working class families from nearby Manchester and Liverpool on their summer break. And since 1927, Labour has held the majority of its conferences by the grey seas in this windswept corner of northwest England. "Blackpool is the most authentic gathering place of parties of the left anywhere in Europe," said delegate Denis MacShane. "I always stay in small boarding

houses and I learn more in a week about the heartbeat of the U.K. than in a month in the Commons." But the cheap and giddy thrills of Britain's premier holiday town are out of tune with the sophistication of Blair's "New Labour." Tony himself holidays in Tuscany and the south of France, and prefers olive oil to chip fat. To the relief of political journalists everywhere, next year the Labour conference will be in Bournemouth, and the year after in Brighton. No decision has been taken for the years after that, but party officials admit privately that a return to the northwest in the near future is highly unlikely. Blackpool is scarcely helped by its position. Two hundred miles north of London, the legendary poor timekeeping of the British railways resulted in some government ministers taking seven hours to reach the town. And the beach is hardly an attraction: asked if he would be taking a dip, Environment Minister Michael said he would not advise anyone to swim in the rubbish- and sewage-polluted waters. Blackpool's fading splendour is perhaps a sign of the town's refusal to modernise and stubborn reliance on a

tried and tested formula, a stance at odds with New Labour's reforming zeal. For the old guard, the divorce from Blackpool is almost as hard to accept as the jettisoning of the socialist tenets on which the party was founded. "Bournemouth? It's only good for Tories," declared one trade unionist. The blow will fall heavily on Blackpool's population of 150,000. The town, which boasts that it has "more beds than the entire Greek islands", is entirely dependent on the £250 million (\$420 million) which its declining tourist trade brings in each year. The Conservative Party too, which held its 1997 conference in the town, also has no current plans to return. "It would be a catastrophe if we could not rely upon the conference season any more," said a spokesman for the town hall. Blackpool's one hope may be the gay community, which is fast making the resort into some sort of mecca, with 56 "specialised" hotels. But there was no mistaking the shudder that went through the town with Tony Blair's keynote speech Tuesday, when he warned of "too much tolerance of mediocrity, too little pursuit of excellence".

Bosnian Serb Stevan Todorovic (centre) is guarded by two United Nations security guards as he makes his initial appearance before the war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. Todorovic claimed he was too ill to enter a plea and the court adjourned the hearing. (Reuters photo)

Bosnian Serb war crimes accused too ill to plead

THE HAGUE (R) — A Bosnian Serb told the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal Wednesday he was too ill to enter a plea on charges of rape and murder, saying he received a heavy blow to the head during his abduction from Yugoslavia. Judges at the International Criminal Tribunal for former Yugoslavia ruled the court should enter a provisional plea of "not guilty" for former police chief Stevan Todorovic, 41. Todorovic is charged with 15 counts of grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, violation of the customs of war and crimes against

humanity over atrocities against Croats and Muslims in the northern Bosnian town of Bosanski Samac in 1992. He was indicted in 1995 with five other men, including Bosanski Samac's municipal governor Blagoje Simic, who is still at large. They are accused of orchestrating a campaign of terror aimed at ethnically cleansing the strategic town. Three of the accused pleaded "not guilty" to amended charges earlier this month. NATO-led troops from the Bosnia Stabilisation Force (SFOR) announced Sunday they had arrested Todorovic "without incident" in north-

ern Bosnia. NATO has dismissed claims he was kidnapped in Yugoslavia, where it has no jurisdiction. Todorovic told the U.N. court he was snatched from a friend's home in the Zlatibor mountains in central Yugoslavia. His lawyer told reporters he was taken at gunpoint, dressed only in his pyjamas, and subsequently gagged and blindfolded. "I don't feel well because during the kidnapping I was transported from Serbia across the Drina River and I received a heavy blow to my head with a baseball bat," Todorovic said.

He had a wound on the back of his head and there was bruising beneath it, he said. Todorovic's lawyer told reporters the alleged kidnappers were in cahoots with NATO. Todorovic is accused of committing the crimes while he was Bosanski Samac police chief in 1992. The town, now in the Serb Republic, was occupied by Serb forces early in the 1992-95 war. Serb authorities undertook a campaign of terror designed to force most Bosnian Croat and Muslim residents to leave

the area," the indictment says. Measures included rounding up non-Serbs and putting them in detention camps where they were killed, beaten, tortured and sexually assaulted. They were forced to wear white armbands to identify themselves and their bank accounts were confiscated. The Yugoslav tribunal, set up by the United Nations in 1993, currently has 26 men in its detention unit outside The Hague. It has issued 20 public indictments against 58 individuals. There are also a number of sealed indictments.

Designing trees to clean up mercury

NEW YORK (UPI) — Plant geneticists say they have taken a major step forward in the development of genetically engineered trees that will act like giant straws, sucking toxic mercury out of polluted soil. Scientists from the University of Georgia, Athens, have shown in a laboratory experiment that young gene-altered yellow poplar trees can thrive in a culture dish containing high levels of mercury. They gave the plants a mercury-busting gene from bacteria. Not only did the baby trees survive, but they also could consume mercury, convert it to a less toxic form and vaporise it, spewing it out through pores in their leaves. The study is published in the October issue of the journal Nature Biotechnology. Although the research is promising, scientists say they won't know if the method will be useful in fighting mercury pollution until field trials are com-

pleted. These studies could start in the next year and take years to complete. Field trials are also essential to answer another important question, whether the method would only move the pollutants from soil to air, but not get rid of them. Clayton L. Rugh, the studies lead author, "We're not trying to relocate the problem," said. But if it works, investigators say planting trees would be an ideal way to clean up mercury contaminated sites, because trees are easy to care for, live a long time and their root systems plunge deep into the earth, where they can retrieve buried toxins. Rugh says: "They essentially feed themselves. Give them some fertilizer and let them do the work for you." Mercury contamination is, in part, caused by manufacturing processes as well as the disposal of instruments, like thermometers and mirrors, that use the silvery liquid metal. Once in soil and water,

mercury can make its way into food, especially fish, which have been seen as a primary source of mercury poisoning. The metal damages the nervous system. Researchers exploring the use of plants to fight pollution — a field known as phytoremediation — say the Georgia experiment is important because it demonstrates that plants can do what environmental scientists had hoped — take up a toxic substance and get rid of it. Biochemist David E. Salt of Flagstaff's Northern Arizona University, who commented on the research in Nature Biotechnology, says: "This is the first time anyone has shown we can really do this. It's a flag-ship."

Salt says the Georgia team has been able to make yellow poplar perform a trick alchemists learned long ago: Turning cinnabar into quicksilver. In his commentary, Salt says: "This trick raises the possibility that trees may soon be able to remove poi-

sonous mercury from soil by blowing it into the atmosphere. Rugh says that the mercury-fighting genes were taken from bacteria that were discovered through an unrelated branch of science — dentistry. Rugh says dental researchers were experimenting on monkeys to see whether certain cavity fillings, which contained mercury, were hazardous to health. In the course of that work, they discovered mercury-resistant bacteria living in the monkeys' gut. The bacteria carried a gene the scientists have called mer-A that breaks down one form of mercury, the highly toxic ionic form, to elemental mercury, which is less dangerous. Rugh says his team has also created mercury-resistant tobacco and Thale Cress. The scientists used a method known as a gene gun, which shoots gene-coated gold pellets into a cell, a relatively routine process in plant genetics,

Important Announcement

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8pm-9pm Mobile numbers from 86228 to 87255

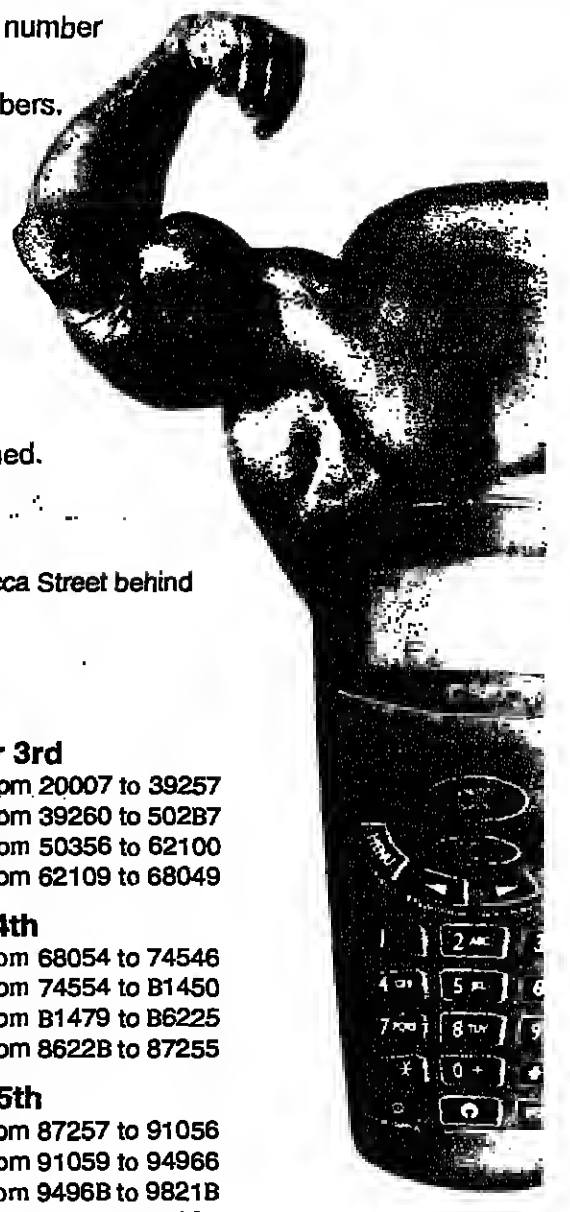
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Better safe than sorry

THE HOSPITALISATION of more than 200 students who fell ill after receiving vaccinations is a cause for alarm even though such incidents occur in the best of developed nations.

While we hail the government and its various branches for their prompt action, the set-up of an investigation committee and the openness in which the various departments dealt with the scare, we cannot but fear that negligence, as demonstrated by the water crisis, seems to be widespread.

True that only around 200 students were affected out of 16,000 others who also were inoculated. Still, even the smallest number of Jordanian children falling ill because of one medical reason or another is enough to generate concern. That the Ministry of Health insists the vaccines in question were tested and found suitable, makes one wonder whether there are enough safeguards in place to protect the lives of Jordanians at all levels and on all fronts.

If improper refrigeration of the vaccines is ruled out and the standards of the World Health Organisation have been met, then by sheer deduction, there must be an element of human negligence somewhere along the line that may explain the incident.

In 1994, the minister of health then, Abdul Rahim Malhas, charged that our food and medicine were either polluted or outdated. His allegations were summarily dismissed.

But apprehension has always prevailed among us. We know, for example that outdated medicines and rotten food might not strike one ill instantly. But they might affect one's health in the long-term. In today's sophisticated and globalised world, people depend on their governments to scrutinise what they drink and eat, and especially the pills they take, to make sure that they will not have short-term or long-term effect on their health.

We hope this government will bring peace of mind to the people, now and for good.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Faneh discussed contradictions between the health ministry officials' statements and what has been published in the newspapers regarding the recent water crisis that lasted for several months. Faneh holds the minister of health responsible for the portability of the water. The minister announced that water coming from the Zai Water Plant was clean and drinkable, but some press articles cast doubt on this claim, the writer said. Do we believe what officials said or what journalists wrote? Both minister of health and journalists should resort to laboratories and wait for specialists' results. Faneh said journalists should not be used for opinions they have published in their articles, even if they were false, but that excludes information lacking medical evidence. Faneh suggested the prosecutor, still investigating the water crisis, send for those journalists who published articles about water contamination, and ask them to provide him with information and documents that might be more helpful and important than those of the Ministry of Health, the Royal Scientific Society and local and foreign specialists.

Al Ra'i's Mahmoud Rimawi said that clashes between the Arabs of Um Fahem and Israel reveal the racist nature of Israel when dealing with Arabs. But these clashes also reveal the Arabs' increasing national awareness among parties, local communities and even parliament. Israeli policy demands that this "civilised state" expropriates land from its Arab owners, because when it comes to Arabs, Israel claims that their lands are expropriated for organisational purposes, such as road constructions, military areas and so on. Israel, since 1948, has proved that it is impossible to live in peaceful coexistence among the traditional "elite Zionists" especially those who influence the current Israeli government, driving the region into a vicious circle of armed confrontation.

View from Academia

Parents' role in a child's education

Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

NOT ONLY teachers and school officials, but also researchers in the field and educators call on parents to take an active part in the education of their children, especially in the early years of schooling. No matter what the reason (excuse?) is, parents cannot afford not to get involved. You cannot, for instance, say you are too busy as a parent (barely making ends meet, pursuing your demanding career full-time, etc.) to devote time to your children's education.

The saying, (and this is still repeated by many parents, in the less as well as the more privileged areas in our society) that teachers are paid to shoulder the responsibility of the education of children on behalf of the parents is no longer acceptable. Whether you like it or not (and you better like it), you as a parent have to be not just involved but actively involved. Scholars in the field speak, in fact, of both a fundamental role for parents and a partnership.

All of this is fine. But it is easier said than done. How do parents get actively involved, and how do they become full partners? There is, in the minds of parents at least, a substantial degree of scepticism and a substantial degree of ambiguity about the very concept of being actively involved and being a partner.

When we talk about the role of parents, it seems to me, we are talking about three dimensions at least. The first has to do with parents keeping in touch with teachers and school officials on a regular or frequent basis, through the general meetings that teachers and school officials hold with parents and through meetings with teachers and school officials on an individual basis. In the early, as well as later, years of schooling, it is to the benefit of the child/student for parents and teachers to consult. It is difficult for teachers in a short period of time to get to know all students, and know them well; the parents can offer valuable information or feedback to teachers, and vice versa. Under this umbrella also, parents are expected to devote time to get involved (morally at least) in school activities in which their children take part (sports, plays, musical performances, knowledge contests, etc.).

Such dimension of parental participation or involve-

ment is, in my opinion, the least problematic. What do you mean? Well, I know that some parents (especially in the case of public schools) never bother to talk to teachers or attend any school meetings or activities. But many either do or can be persuaded to get involved. This dimension is ultimately not problematic, however, because it is easier for parents to grasp and easier to perform.

The second role for parents is their own educational responsibility at home. Children need a lot of attention: drilling, training, explaining, and role modelling. The responsibility of upbringing falls on the shoulders of the parents almost entirely. It is they who are expected to help children develop in a healthy way, to be successful, and to contribute to their own lives and to the lives of those around them constructively. It is they who help them (supposedly) develop healthy eating habits, cross the street properly, deal with others fairly, respect the environment, abide by laws, etc. This also is a role which parents (though they may not live up to the challenges involved) find easier to grasp and perform.

The more difficult and problematic role, and the least plausible and clear to parents, is — believe it or not — how to help their children with their school work. For one thing, most parents find it unpleasant to sit down and go over the school material with their children. They either do not have the patience to do so, or do not share the belief in the very idea. Until now many parents feel school work is the responsibility of the teacher and the school officials. A frustrated parent friend of mine said the other day: "I send my children to an expensive school with the expectation that they will at least take care of schooling. If I do not sit down and go over every tiny detail with my children they do not learn? What am I paying the school for? My children seem to learn nothing from their teachers."

Other parents tell the tale that in the more privileged countries of the globe, students do all school work at school. When they come home, they do not bring any textbooks with them. By contrast (these parents say) most school work in our part of the world is done at home.

Children come home with a huge bag full of textbooks and endless homework assignments.

More importantly, however, most parents (including the few who actually enjoy supervising their children's homework) suffer from an ambiguity about the exact role they are supposed to play. Do they actually teach their children? Do they supervise from afar? Do they go over the specific details? What if you ask your child to solve a math problem and they can't? What do you do? What if they cannot memorise the poem or the verse from the Koran assigned by the teacher for the following day?

Parents are in a dilemma when it comes to this dimension of their role. Not only do they not know what to do, but most have not been trained to supervise or help. This level of parental involvement may be not only pointless but harmful. Children can get abused by impatient, bewildered parents — psychologically or even physically. And parents may also endow their children with bad study habits and bad approaches to learning. Many parents (if not most) expect their children to memorise the material rather than to understand it.

The immediate answer to the question of what concerned parents should do is to have them talk to teachers or school officials. Teachers know more than parents (or are supposed to) about how to help students with their studies, and they can give parents valuable tips and advice.

This, however, does not solve the problem entirely. The more effective thing to do — if we expect parents to be partners and if we expect them to help their children (whatever that means) with school work — is to make some literature on the subject available to them and to offer them some training (through conferences, meetings, workshops, etc.).

Before we expect parents to live up to their role as partners and active participants, we need to endow them with the necessary awareness, know-how and skills. The individual schools can play an important role in this respect — not just the Ministry of Education.

Jerusalem life

Freedom to travel

"HELLO, THIS is Mr. Olmert," was the voice on the other end of the telephone. The Israeli mayor of Jerusalem was calling my colleague Ayman Bardawil to inquire about the difficulty he was having getting a pass to the airport. Ayman, the director of Al Quds Educational Television was invited to a conference in Barcelona that dealt with Euro-Mediterranean cultural cooperation. Allisa, the wife of the right wing Israeli mayor, who was invited to the same conference, had been approached to intervene on Ayman's case to ensure his safe passage to the conference.

Ayman, an architect by education and now an animator and a television administrator, was rather surprised by the call from the high profile politician. A day earlier he had gone to the Israeli liaison office outside Ramallah with his airplane ticket, his regular pass to enter Israel and conference invitation in order to get the additional permit to allow him to pass through the airport passport control. This was not his first time to travel. But this time the Israelis refused to grant the airport pass saying that by the time he is scheduled to be in the airport the hermetic closure order will be in effect.

An Israeli official whom Ayman had called earlier could not help saying that the decision was made by the security people and he could not help. In other words, his entry to an Israeli

airport at such a time would be a grave danger to the security of the state of Israel and therefore the routine airport pass was denied. Pointing to the fact that he had reserved a seat and bought the ticket, the Israeli security person said he was helpless.

The Israeli mayor who had received a call from his embarrassed wife in Barcelona was quickly able to make mountains move. Shortly after the courtesy call from Ehud Olmert another official called Ayman to get his details. Moments later another Israeli voice was on the phone politely assuring Ayman that his permit would soon be ready. Sure enough twenty minutes after the intervention of the Israeli official, his travel was no longer a security threat, the computers were suddenly working, vacationed staff suddenly reappeared and were able to type and approve the needed permit. After receiving his permit, and as he was packing his bags, Ayman received one more call from Ehud Olmert. "Is everything OK, do you need help getting to the airport," he was asked. A taxi from Jerusalem was waiting and Ayman didn't need any more Israeli help. "Be sure to give my regards to Allisa," the Israeli mayor told his new found Palestinian friend.

In Barcelona, the conference was upbeat. An Israeli television producer talked about dialogue. Addressing the Palestinians on the panel she called for cooperation and exchange

of visits. Ayman couldn't control himself. He had been feeling guilty about having this privilege to travel while the rest of the Palestinians were under lock and key in a high prison. He asked to speak and chided the Israeli speaker for being so oblivious to the situation in Palestine. He explained how he was able to come to the conference. "How many Palestinians can count on the wife of an Israeli official to obtain their freedom to travel," he asked. "Right now more than two million Palestinians are unable to travel from the West Bank to Gaza, can't use the airport and entry to Jerusalem or Israel is strictly forbidden. If you are sincere about your call for dialogue, your effort should be focused on ensuring the freedom of movement for all Palestinians," he told the Israeli panelist.

As Yasser Arafat, Benjamin Netanyahu and Bill Clinton continued to talk about the stalled peace process, the day-to-day problems of Palestinians seemed as far from the discussion as Washington is from the region.

Whenever Ayman is invited to a conference that requires travel, he gets agitated expecting problems, and I am always encouraging him to travel knowing how badly he needs some fresh air. After telling me his story he asked me a simple question: When will I be able to travel without permits, passes or the intervention of high powered politicians.

Daoud Kuttab

America's image problem

To the editor:

I WONDER what the definition for the word "democracy" is in the American constitution? How can the United States claim it advances human rights? Crucial questions remain, I think, unanswered over the publication of U.S. President Bill Clinton's intimate

affairs with Monica. What kind of democracy depicts its president as morally degenerate, an adolescent chasing pretty women and as someone willing to strip off his clothes in front of anyone. If democracy in the United States means penetrating a man's privacy, then all American people in this context should be punished too, since, as we all know, there are no strict rules prohibiting sexual relations in any state in the U.S. I firmly believe that Bill Clinton's ordeal is not only an imperfection in the U.S. system, but also an example showing that the American juridical system lacks impartiality. The majority of the American people have become aware that the whole story is fabricated and overstated; they actually sympathise with their president whose prestige and reputation have been badly damaged. For my own part, I believe that those who stand behind this crisis have severely marred the image of America.

Mazen Al Tamimi,
 Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

Developing world

'We cannot do this alone'

IN A WORLD of mounting economic crisis, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in general has less of a reason than most other areas to fear a great crash, if only because our economies largely have nowhere to go but up. In order to crash, you have to first be moving at high speed, something which most of MENA (including Jordan) is not doing.

In the shadow of this continuation of sluggish growth and retarded development in the MENA region, the Mediterranean Development Forum (MDF) met in Marrakesh in the first week of September, during a nasty bout of global instability in financial markets and deep-seated worries about a spreading crisis in emerging economies. Led by World Bank President James Wolfensohn, a host of the good and the great from the international development community came together in Marrakesh for the second MDF with senior representatives from MENA governments and private organisations.

The event, devoted to disseminating knowledge, building skills, and fostering networks within the development community in the MENA region, is organised through a partnership of regional think tanks, advocacy groups, and related organisations — including the recently established Jordan Economic Development Association (JEDA) — and the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of

the World Bank. This year's event was attended by over 600 senior government officials, influential members of the private sector, and representatives of civil society. Characterised by EDI's Ishaq Diwan as "a Davos for the South," MDF is a chance for some of the region's most influential thinkers and practitioners of development policies to discuss the impact of the recent global instability and to make plans for the future. Just as the Davos meetings which the World Economic Forum has held annually over the past few decades aim to bring together key economic and business players from around the world, the idea is for MDF to do the same for the region.

"Developing human capacities" was high on the Marrakesh agenda, and JEDA played a role in developing this theme through hosting the preparatory MDF meeting on the topic in Amman in July. Then, and again in Marrakesh, it was noted that in the last decade, internal and external economic shocks have significantly constrained national budgets and limited the capacity of MENA states to satisfy rapidly expanding demand for social services. A proposed solution to this problem is seen as more effective participation of the private and NGO sectors in such things as health and education.

In fact "participation" in general was the theme of this

year's MDF, with the noun and its adjective "participatory" cropping up everywhere. For example, one definition of good governance, another key issue of the Marrakesh meeting, included efficiency, accountability, decentralisation, and participation. It was noted that development is not an isolated economic phenomenon, but an integral part of a general transformation of society in which trust, cooperation, participation, and stability are built at all levels, including those of government. Cynics may argue that this will never describe the Jordanian system; my answer to them is that if we don't push for these goals, the alternative may be increasing disaffection which, with a few more years of falling GNP per capita, will push Jordan to the brink.

Most of those who were in Marrakesh are aware of the long-term nature of this process. In their summary and recommendations at the close of the event, the MDF partners pledged to continue contributing to this "ambitious agenda." Happily, the Jordanians who attended MDF were overwhelmingly committed to these ambitions, and it will be partly up to JEDA to help make this agenda a growing reality at home. Such top-notch organisations as the Lebanese Centre for Policy Studies, l'Association Maroc 2020, and the Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation,

among others from the MENA region, are already leading the way in their own countries. However, in the words of Wolfensohn in his opening speech to the MDF "we have concluded in our institution that we cannot do this alone. We need a four-way partnership with international institutions, business and the private sector, civil society, and elected governments." The phrase "we cannot do this alone" rang in people's ears over the next few days, as practical suggestions started to be made for closer and more practical Bank involvement in MENA development and for greater participation by people and institutions in the region in the process of pushing for positive change.

By coincidence, all this happened a few days after our new government was appointed. The bad news was that several people from Amman who had intended to be participants in MDF became cabinet ministers or assumed other key posts and had to miss Marrakesh because of the pressure of their new jobs; the good news was that most of the ideas of these men are on the same wavelength as that of MDF. Once they also realise that they too "cannot do this alone," Jordan may be on the path towards participatory, sustainable development.

The writer is president of the Jordan Economic Development Association.

Riad Al Khouri

Featu

Cyber mould

By Karen Lov

Living

By Jean

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Qudah: World Bank gave high marks to Jordan's privatisation programme

THE JORDANIAN privatisation programme is considered the best among many countries implementing similar programmes according to the latest evaluation by the World Bank, the president of the Executive Privatisation Unit (EPU) at the Prime Ministry said in a lecture this week.

Adel Qudah, the EPU president, said Jordan has paved the way for the privatisation programmes by laying down basic and legislative structures that took sufficient time in preparation, accuracy and comprehensiveness. He added that "the privatisation's success chances are there and that the political will stands strongly behind the completion of the programme which is progressing steadily and objectively."

Qudah stressed the keenness of preserving the rights of citizens at the institutions where the privatisation programmes will be implemented. He said: "Privatisation carried out at some institutions and companies has created work opportunities and gave way to expansion that would not have taken place if the government had maintained its equity in them."

The EPU chief indicated that privatisation came to Jordan as part of an integrated economic package adopted by the government within the national economic programme. "The privatisation did not come out of a vacuum but after studies and surveys of public sector institutions," he said noting that some of the institutions and companies have monopolies as they fix high prices for their products.

"Also, despite being able to obtain

soft loans and support from the government as well as credit guarantees, these institutions and companies were not able to provide adequate services to the citizens," Qudah said. He named as examples, the Jordan Tourism and Spa Company (Hammamat Ma'in), Royal Jordanian the Aquila Railway Corporation, the Irbid Electricity Authority, the Public Transport Corporation and the Water Authority.

He also referred to former institutions such as Dar Al Sha'ab Printing, Publishing and Distributing Company (Sawt Al Shaah newspaper), the glass factory and the timber plant. "These institutions often resorted to hiding their failure and losses under political, social or national pretenses with heavy losses to the treasury and public funds," Qudah pointed out.

Consequently, he added, protection of public funds and the national economic resources require privatising these projects.

As a policy and means, the privatisation has been adopted to achieve a number of objectives, mainly:

- 1) Upgrading the efficiency of the projects and improving the competitive edge of the Jordanian economy.
- 2) Attracting and increasing the local, Arab and foreign private investments.
- 3) Limiting the government to its basic tasks and supporting the general budget through halting all financial aid to losing projects.
- 4) Developing the local capital market.
- 5) Ending the state monopoly.
- 6) Obtaining technology (Al Ra'i).

India to extend \$25 million credit to Iraq

NEW DELHI (R) — India will extend \$25-million in credit to Iraq for purchase of manufactured goods, including pharmaceuticals, a government official has said.

"The Iraqi oil minister was informed that Indian government has agreed to extend a line of credit to Iraq worth \$25 million," an Indian external affairs ministry official told Reuters after a meeting of the India-Iraq Joint Commission.

The Joint Commission, which met after a gap of 10 years, was chaired by Indian Petroleum Minister K. Ramamurthy and Iraqi Oil Minister Amir Muhammad Rasheed.

"Discussions (of the Commission) will also relate to the extension of a line of credit by India to Iraq to be used for purchase of capital goods, consumer durables and for consultancy services," the government said in a statement issued after the meeting.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET														
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHARISANI														
TELEPHONE: 657171 / 607179														
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 30/09/1998														
PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JO	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE				
355.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	17.7	9.2	18	2900	642775	216.00	216.50	0.50				
1.950	1.180	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	12.7	4.49	9	3925	6153	1.58	1.56	-0.02				
3.200	1.000	BANK OF JORDAN	E	0.00	1	500	510	1.02	1.02	-				
1.300	0.870	KIO. EAST INV. BK.	59.1	0.00	4	2000	1800	0.90	0.90	-				
2.680	1.550	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	11.1	6.56	5	14855	23622	1.59	1.58	-0.01				
6.510	2.610	THE HOUSING BK.	18.4	3.45	26	48995	141257	2.89	2.90	0.01				
3.450	1.760	JOR. YUWAIT BANK	8	0.00	11	7170	12885	1.77	1.80	0.03				
0.870	0.560	JOR. GULF BANK	9	0.00	2	3000	1700	0.57	0.57	-				
3.910	1.680	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.6	0.00	10	5100	9156	1.73	1.72	-0.01				
1.260	0.930	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	P	0.00	1	8000	7600	0.95	0.95	-				
3.900	1.350	JOR. INV. FIN. BANK	21.8	3.52	1	800	710	1.42	1.42	-				
0.850	0.600	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	P	0.00	7	17572	11773	0.68	0.67	-0.01				
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											INDEX: 284.19	CHNG: -0.19	95	114687
2.810	1.790	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	7.4	9.43	3	11200	29680	2.63	2.65	0.02				
2.100	1.080	HOLY LAND INSUR.	8.2	0.00	1	200	220	1.10	1.10	-				
2.350	1.800	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	9.3	0.00	1	250	485	1.97	1.94	-0.03				
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS											INDEX: 126.18	CHNG: -0.07	5	11650
2.240	1.420	JOR. ELECTRIC PAR.	9.7	5.84	17	5137	7897	1.46	1.49	0.03				
4.010	1.610	JOR. INTL. TELECOM.	9.9	6.25	2	200	1270	1.68	1.60	-0.08				
6.200	3.650	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	18.9	3.26	5	750	7870	4.60	4.60	-				
1.350	0.710	NATL. PORTFOLIO	28.7	0.00	2	800	576	0.71	0.72	0.01				
1.120	0.650	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.1	0.00	1	1000	720	0.73	0.72	-0.01				
590	270	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	9	0.00	2	500	140	0.29	0.28	-0.01				
1.480	1.060	KIO. EAST HOTELS	9	0.00	2	1000	126	1.09	1.09	-				
4.460	1.880	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	9.4	0.00	9	17250	32834	1.91	1.90	-0.01				
990	880	BARIA EDUCATION	20.8	0.00	1	500	480	0.98	0.98	-				
1.830	1.060	UNIFIED CO.	5.0	9.65	4	1300	1450	1.15	1.14	-0.01				
0.810	0.510	UNION LAND DEV.	9	0.00	1	2000	1040	0.52	0.52	-				
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											INDEX: 106.48	CHNG: +0.26	45	30543
3.660	1.640	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	11.1	5.85	8	10899	20592	1.88	1.88	-				
4.310	3.440	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	15.4	0.00	2	9400	13630	1.44	1.45	0.01				
6.500	3.850	ARAB POTASH CO.	19.0	5.18	3	36500	134729	3.95	3.86	-0.09				
11.250	10.050	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.3	8.18	7	1839	19513	10.51	10.45	-0.06				
5.740	2.400	ARAB PRASH. WARE.	7.3	2.83	15	4528	11594	1.14	1.15	0.01				
5.590	1.070	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	9.4	0.00	9	17250	32834	1.91	1.90	-0.01				
2.980	1.700	JOR. ALUMIN. IND.	13.3	13.89	6	1950	3501	1.77	1.80	0.03				
0.550	0.390	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	13.2	0.00	1	100	41	0.41	0.41	-				
0.560	0.300	INTERMED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	14	23200	6990	0.31	0.30	-0.01				
1.760	0.760	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	9	0.00	1	100	71	0.70	0.71	0.01				
2.250	1.700	NATL. CEMENT IND.	33.3	0.00	1	100	2148	1.70	1.71	0.01				
1.730	0.780	JOR. SOLVING-CHEM.	7.4	0.00	6	5500	5300	0.66	0.65	-0.01				
1.470	1.150	ARAB PHARM. CHEM.	13.8	4.80	2	800	5300	0.66	0.65	-0.01				
1.260	0.530	UNIV. HOOD. IND.	10.4	0.00	3	2750	1403	0.50	0.51	0.01				
0.920	0.480	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	7	0.00	3	2750	6150	1.24	1.23	-0.01				
1.580	1.200	NATL. CIGARETTE	8.6	8.13	1	5000	6150	1.24	1.23	-0.01				
1.080	0.600	JOR. IND. MATCH CO.	8.9	0.00	1	1000	10511	1.26	1.28	0.02				
1.150	0.500	EL - SAY ABADY WEAR	45.0	0.00	14	8300	10228	1.03	1.02	-0.01				
0.890	0.410	INTL. TOBACCO	7.2	5.72	3	1000	765	0.76	0.75	-0.01				
0.710	0.480	JORDAN STEEL	8.24	0.00	2	900	3864	0.68	0.68	-				
0.670	0.530	KIO. WEST COMPLEX	9.8	0.00	2	1100	594	0.54	0.54	-				
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											INDEX: 77.59	CHNG: -0.70	144	143419
GRAND TOTAL											INDEX: 171.25	CHNG: -0.01	289	300299
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 30/09/1998														
3.050	0.860	EXPORT & FIN. BNC. 751	16.1	0.00	3	2050	1271	0.87	0.87	-				
1.000	0.700	JOR. INV. INSURANCE CO.	E	0.00	17	165000	122100	0.70	0.74	0.04				
0.500	0.340	JOR. TRADE FAC.	9	0.00	2	6000	2280	0.39	0.38	-0.01				
0.800	0.500	UNION INV.	9	0.00	3	8000	4240	0.53	0.53	-				
0.260	0.150	JOR. INV. MARCH-TEHOD	9	0.00	3	3000	14	0.14	0.14	-				
0.600	0.270	ARAB FOOD & MED.	9	0.00	7	5550	1776	0.31	0.32	0.01				
0.580	0.260	NATL. MILIT. ENG. MACHCO	9	0.00	23	33700	9099	0.27	0.27	-				
0.690	0.260	HIGHEST PHARM. 901	9	0.00	4	2000	940	0.58	0.57	-0.01				

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22)

Something that

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1998

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your attention this week focuses on partnership and your partner's needs, especially over the weekend and into next week. There's team effort to be made. You and a group of people can actually accomplish something you and a partner want. This is not only going to be fun, it's also going to be bonding.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You may feel you're not getting the support you need from an older person, but only because it's coming in a way you don't recognize. Instead of making your work easier, it could be making it harder. Don't complain. You're actually being trained to take on more responsibility, which could result in an increase in your paycheck.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is a fabulous day. You've got a grand time in air signs going on, making you the lucky winner. You should find romance and travel both entertaining and propitious. You'll find what you want in both departments and perhaps even exceed your expectations. Definitely get out there and look for it.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 21) Money could come in today, possibly from work done in the past. This is a good time to ask for a raise, too. If you need funding to fix up your house, you're in luck. Looks like a loan is available, or maybe there's a little room on your credit card. Just don't forget that you'll have to pay it back, plus interest.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) It looks like you're drawing a lot of attention. The very person you'd like to avoid is watching your every move. This could get kind of uncomfortable at times. You're being asked to perform, but it's not a role of your choosing. It's a little more pressure than you'd prefer, but don't worry. You'll do magnificently.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You've got plenty of work to do, but that's OK. It's helping money come in. You're lucky financially right now, so it's time to call in debts that other people owe you. You're feeling stronger and more decisive. This is a natural result of the skills you're acquiring. So keep practising.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Something that

happened in the past is causing a bit of a problem. Once you get that ironed out, other troubles might magically heal themselves as well.

Communication is one of the healing arts, which you know that today, by getting a loved one to talk about something that's been kept hidden.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) The moon is in Aquarius, which could mean you may have to curtail your activities. That's OK. You can do the homework instead of taking action right now. You're anxious to get started, but you need to do a little more preparation. Plan to make your move tomorrow instead and you'll be more successful.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Your brain's particularly keen today, so use it to plot your escape to far islands. Actually, if you did run off to Tahiti, you'd find yourself yearning for Pago Pago. That's a Sagittarius trait. Before you set sail, it might help to have a little more education. Find out what you need to learn, and learn it.

Report alleges drugs cover-up in Italy

MILAN (AFP) — Italian anti-doping officials covered up a positive test given by a Udinese player after a match in January, the *Corriere della Sera* reported on Wednesday.

The allegation targets the test laboratory at Acqua Acetosa at the centre of a drugs fiasco which on Monday cost the job of Italian sports chief Mario Pescante, president of the national Olympic committee (CONI).

The cover-up has been discovered by Turin state prosecutor Raffaele Guariniello, who is leading a judicial enquiry into drugs in Italian football.

Four players were tested after the league match on January 4 in Rome in which Udinese beat AS Roma 2-1. And traces of a banned stimulant were found in one of the 'A' samples, according to a lab expert.

The expert was then told to keep quiet about the discovery, the paper said.

Hours later, the expert looked for the relevant 'B' sample, which should have remained in a sealed container, but the container was eventually found with the seal broken and all trace of the test gone.

Top Italian sports officials knew about the affair but also kept quiet, the paper claimed, adding though that the test results were probably never passed on to either the club or the player.

Guariniello would not comment on the report as he entered his offices in Turin on Wednesday morning, saying only: "I don't know anything about it."

Udinese's managing director Pierpaolo Marino said: "To say that we know nothing of this affair is an understatement. But clearly there are people who want to dish the dirt on Udinese."

"The club reserves the

right to take any legal action necessary to defend its image and honour. The problem is that we don't know the facts of the matter or what we should be defending ourselves against."

"But I can confirm the fairness of both the club and the players."

The laboratory at Acqua Acetosa has been in the eye of a drugs storm for the past four weeks, since it was revealed that only a fraction of the 4,000 samples sent there by football clubs were ever tested for steroids.

Its secretary general Emilio Gasbarrone has been suspended and the official with ultimate responsibility for the lab, Giorgio Santilli, president of the Italian Sports Doctors Federation, has been sacked.

The Corriere's allegations are dynamite for a number of reasons.

Firstly, a CONI enquiry concluded last month that there was no doping in Italian soccer — a claim which was also sustained by the football federation chief Luciano Nizzola, who said: "Football is clean."

Pescante and Nizzola both subsequently claimed that neither knew that the testing routine at Acqua Acetosa was a sham.

Secondly, a defence put forward by laboratory officials is that resources there were hopelessly inadequate and that since no-one genuinely believed that footballers used drugs, it was better to devote resources to other sports.

That defence, already rickety in itself, will be utterly demolished, along with a lot of reputations, if the paper's allegations of a cover-up are true.

The claims will inevitably be examined by a government enquiry into the doping scandal, ordered by

deputy prime minister Walter Veltroni and led by jurist Carlo Federico Grosso. Grosso will make his report on October 24.

Three top Italian sports officials were meanwhile being tipped as Pescante's possible successors on Wednesday.

Pescante's resignation has done nothing to ease the turmoil in Italian sport, which now faces the prospect of either the election of a new president or the scrapping of the entire CONI leadership.

The elections are due within two months of a CONI council meeting on Thursday, with the likely candidates including swimming federation chief Bartolo Consolo, basketball boss Gianni Petrucci and the CONI's secretary general Raffaele Pagnozzi.

However, there is every chance the elections will be ditched.

Veltroni was already expected by many to sack the entire leadership and put a temporary commissaire in charge — and that possibility can only have increased with the Corriere's revelations.

Veltroni believes that too many mistakes have been made by the CONI, which in Italy doubles as the sports ministry, and that sweeping reforms are needed.

Names are already being tipped for the job of commissaire, who would spend the next six months clearing up the organisation before calling fresh elections and withdrawing from the scene.

Inter Milan president Massimo Moratti is one, although some would like to see him permanently in the top job.

UEFA CUP

Stuttgart in stunning comeback; Collymore hits 3 in Villa triumph; Schalke ousted on penalties

LONDON (AP) — VfB Stuttgart made one of the greatest comebacks in UEFA Cup history Tuesday, scoring a 3-0 victory over Feyenoord in Rotterdam to overturn the Dutch club's 3-1 first leg lead.

German international striker Fredi Bohic scored the winning goal in the second minute of injury time after a goalmouth scramble to put his team into the second round.

The dramatic ending came after strikes by Bulgarian star Krassimir Balakov and Kristijan Djordjevic had wiped out the two-goal advantage Feyenoord had earned in Stuttgart.

"Stuttgart played excellently," admitted Rotterdam coach Leo Beenhakker. "In the away match, we had our best season performance, today our worst. We tried to forget the 3-1 in Stuttgart — obviously we didn't succeed."

On a bitter-sweet night for German teams, Schalke, which won the title two seasons ago, went out on penalties. Werder Bremen scored two extra time goals to oust another Norwegian team, Brann, and Bayer Leverkusen downed one of the tough Italian clubs, Udinese, 1-0.

Schalke tumbled 1-0 at Slavia Prague for 1-1 overall and then lost 5-4 in the penalty shootout when keeper Radek Cerny fisted out Marco van Hoogdalem's weakly placed spot kick.

In Bremen, goals by Raphael Wicky and Andre Wiedener wiped out Brann's first leg lead before Juri Maximov and Havard Flo hit two more in four extra time minutes.

Stefan Beinlich fired Bayer Leverkusen's game-clinching goal after 77 minutes against Udinese in one of the best matchups of the first round. The two teams had tied 1-1 in Italy.

Stan Collymore, who last hit the headlines for assaulting his TV star girlfriend in a Paris nightclub, marked his return to big-time soccer with a UEFA Cup hat-trick.

Collymore fired all three goals as Premier League leader Aston Villa overpowered Norway's Stromsgodset 3-0 to reach the second round.

A talented but erratic striker whose off-field behavior infuriates colleagues, coaches and fans, the former Nottingham



Blackburn Rovers' Sebastian Perez, center, heads the ball over Olympique Lyon's goalkeeper Gregory Cuquet in score his team's first goal during their UEFA Cup match in Linn. The match ended with a 2-2 draw, with Lyon advancing 3-2 on aggregate (AP Photo)



Celta Vigo's Russian player Alexander Mostovoi (left) fights for a loose ball with an unidentified player of Arges (Romania) during a first round second leg UEFA Cup match in Vigo which Celta won 7-0 to advance to the next round (AP Photo)

Forest and Liverpool striker fired Villa into a 2-0 lead by the 23rd minute and added a third in the 64th as John Gregory's team advanced on a 6-2 aggregate having looked two weeks ago that it was on the way out.

The Villains trailed the Norwegian team 2-0 with only 10 minutes to go at Villa Park but turned that game around for a 3-2 first leg victory.

Jamie Redknapp and Robbie Fowler both scored twice as Liverpool, already 3-0 up from the away leg, crushed Slovakia's Kosice 5-0 at Anfield for an 8-0 overall triumph. Paul Ince added the other.

Leeds tumbled 1-0 at Portugal's Maritimo to lose its first leg advantage but triumphed 4-1 in a penalty shootout. Blackburn held Lyon to a 2-2 tie in France but went out having lost the home leg 1-0.

French midfielder Alain Boghossian netted the clincher for Parma as the Italian club overturned 1-0 Fenerbahce's first leg advantage to win 3-1 on the night and 3-2 overall.

The Turkish team had hit back from two goals down to reply through Elvir Balic. That away goal could have proved crucial until Alain Boghossian hit a third for Parma with 18 minutes to go.

Red Star Belgrade needed to win a shootout after losing 2-1 at French club Metz, which had United States World Cup player David Regis sent off after 52 minutes for a late tackle on Miodrag Pantelic.

The two teams were tied at 3-3 but Red Star gained a 4-3 shootout win after Nenad Jestrovic and Danny Boffin missed vital penalties for the French runner up, which has scored only one goal in seven domestic league games this season.

Monaco, which gained the semifinal of the Champions Cup last season, eased into the second round of the UEFA Cup with a 0-0 tie with Poland's Lodz having already won the first leg 3-1.

Dynamo Moscow survived a late fightback by Larvia's Skonto to win 3-2 in Riga and advance 5-4 overall. Fiorentina fought out a tough 0-0 tie with Hajduk Split in Croatia to advance 2-1 while Bologna fell behind before scoring a 2-1 home win over Sporting Lisbon to advance comfortably 4-1.

Dutch club Vitesse shared in a 3-3 tie with AEK in Athens but was already 3-0 ahead from the first leg.

Christophe Dugarry and Robert Pires each scored twice — as — Olympique Marseille overpowered Czech club Sigma Olomouc 4-0 for a 6-2 overall triumph.

Bulgarian star Luboslav Penev scored three of Celta Vigo's goals in a 7-0 crushing of Romania's Arges as the Spanish club went through 8-0 overall.

And Ivan Perez hit three for Real Betis in a 5-0 trouncing of Danish club Vejle which had led 1-0 from the first leg. Nigerian star Finidi George scored another of the Betis goals.

Valencia was another Spanish club to make it to the second round after a 3-0 victory over Steaua Bucharest. Three second half goals made it 7-3 overall for Valencia.



Carlos Moya

Moya advances in Mallorca Open

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Balearic Islands (AP) — Top seed and World No. 5 Carlos Moya of Spain defeated little-known Rumanian Ion Moldovan Tuesday in the first round of the Mallorca Open clay-court tennis tournament.

Moya, a local hero from this Mediterranean Spanish island, took the first set 6-4. Moldovan forced a tie-break in the second set that Moya eventually won 13-11.

In other first round play Tuesday, fourth seeded Spaniard Alberto Berasategui defeated Ecuador's Nicolas Lapentti 6-1, 6-4. Sergio Bruguera of Spain also advanced to the second round with a straight sets win over Czech Jiri Novak 6-3, 6-3.

Spain's Julian Alonso was less fortunate, retiring in the second set with wrist problems after losing the first to fellow countryman Fernando Vicente 6-1.

Also Tuesday Czech Slava Dosedel overcame Carlos Costa of Spain 6-4, 6-3. Tommy Haas of Germany defeated Bohdan Ulihrach of the Czech Republic 6-1, 3-6, 6-2, and Mariano Puerta of Argentina eliminated Spaniard Javier Sanchez 6-3, 6-7 (5-7), 6-1.

In the only doubles match, Brazilian pair Gustavo Kuerten and Fernando Meligeni defeated U.S. partnership Brandon Coupe and Jack Waite.

FloJo remembrance set for Sunday

INDIANAPOLIS (AFP) — Florence Griffith Joyner, the world record-setting sprinter who died last week at age 38 of a heart seizure, will be remembered at ceremonies here on Sunday.

USA Track and Field and the Indiana Pacers, the National Basketball Association club whose uniforms Joyner redesigned in 1990, will conduct ceremonies at Market Square Arena.

Griffith Joyner set the women's 100-metre world record of 10.49 seconds here at the 1988 U.S. Olympic trials, although many have contended the mark was wind-aided.

Speaking at the event will be Al Joyner, the 1984 Olympic triple jump champion and Griffith Joyner's husband, several 1988 Olympians and U.S. athletics and Olympic officials.

NBA players kick off Lebanon tour despite U.S. travel warning

BEIRUT (AFP) — Ten players from the National Basketball Association (NBA) kicked off their first Middle East exhibition tour in Beirut on Wednesday despite a U.S. warning that Lebanon is a dangerous place to visit.

"Our objective is to assert that Lebanon has undoubtedly become a safe country capable of hosting everybody and from all nationalities," said tour organisers Future Television.

The U.S. embassy in Beirut advised Americans in Lebanon on September 9 to adopt "extreme security precautions" after fears of deadly attacks similar to those last month on U.S. diplomatic missions in

Kenya and Tanzania. Washington last year lifted a travel ban on Americans visiting Lebanon imposed after a spate of anti-U.S. attacks during the 1975-1990 civil war. But it said Lebanon was still dangerous to visit.

"This is also an unprecedented event in the entire Arab world and the Middle East," said the statement from Future, owned by Lebanon's billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The NBA team, led by coach Tony Ronzone, will open the exhibition tour with a game Wednesday against an all-star Lebanese team, inaugurating a new indoor stadium in Beirut.

The U.S. players will also bold games with Lebanon's basketball Sporting Club and a visiting Arab all-star team. They will also take part in slam-dunk and three-point shoot-out contests this weekend.

The NBA team is made up of 10 rising players, including the Sacramento Kings' Michael Stewart — an NBA all-star in 1997-1998 — as well as the Chicago Bulls' James Penny and Orlando Magic's Del Demps.

The others are Rick Brunson from the Portland Trail Blazers, Greg Buckner and Brad Davis from the Dallas Mavericks, David Wood from

the San Antonio Spurs. Anthony Carter from the Detroit Pistons, Sam Mak from Vancouver and the Canadian National team's David Daniels.

The Harlem Globe Trotters will also visit Beirut on October 23, to hold a series of their highly-popular exhibition games, another first in the Middle East.

"These are all important events for basketball in Lebanon. They will surely increase an already growing popularity for the game and will also help Lebanese players improve their techniques," said a sports commentator.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 464114	CINEMA TEL: 463144	CINEMA TEL: 5699238	CINEMA TEL: 5677420	CINEMA TEL: 5934793	CINEMA TEL: 5934793	Heham Vines Theatre TEL: 4625155
	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Watch out for the new play
	Lawrence Fishburn & Andy Garcia .. in HOODLUM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	John Travolta & Olivia Newton-John .. in GREASE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam .. in AL ZATEEM Shows: 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD "1" NASSER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria ARMAGEDDON Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Leonardo Di Caprio & Robert DeNiro .. in MARVIN'S ROOM Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	

10th Arabian Horse Festival

Jordanian entries command the show

By Randa Naffa

HUMMAR — Jordan's Arabian horses swept the board at the Royal Stables Wednesday with Jaafar and Royal Jordanian Studs sharing most of the titles on the second day of the 10th Arabian Horse Show.

Jaafar Stud's impressive entries came in first place in three out of eight classes. In addition, MB Kershana and Royal won Senior Female and Male titles respectively.

Horses of the Royal Jordanian Stud also showed extraordinary form by topping two classes as Al Hamamah and Hayyil Ramadan won the Best Male and Female Head titles.

In Class competition, MB Kershana and S.N. Wasama of Jaafar Stud topped Class 9 (mares born 90-93), and Class 10 (mares born 86-89) respectively.

Class 11 (mares born before 1986) was won by Shakra, one of the leading Jordanian entries of Hussein Mirza, while Kohl El Ouyoun of Jordan's Taleb Al Nahar won Class 12 (stallions born 1994).

Kamar El Zaman of the Royal Jordanian Stud, a winner on the first day, topped Class 13 (stallions born 1990-1993), and Royal of Jaafar Stud won Class 14 (stallions born 1986-1989).

Class 15 (stallions born before 1986) was won by Verinage of Jordan's Al Khair Stud; Class 16 (female under training) was won by Safaa, daughter of former four-time

HRH Princess Alia receives the trophy won by Al Hamama of the Royal Jordanian Stud for Best Female Head (photo by Abdullah Ayyoub)

winning Jerash of Royal Jordanian Stud, while Class 17 (stallions under training) was won by Fakher Al Khalij of Jordan's Adnan Awamleh.

Attending the event were Royal family members, the ambassador of the United Arab Emirates and World endurance race Champion Taher Al Taher of Saudi Arabia.

President of the Royal Jordanian Equestrian Federation, HRH Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein presented trophies to the winners including HRH Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein who expressed happiness at the performance of her horses from

Jaafar Stud and attributed the success to the "skilful training and good handling they received," she said.

"I am very delighted with the level of competition which has witnessed a qualitative leap in the breeding and training of horses," the Princess told the Jordan Times.

Emma Maxwell from the U.K., who has been working as a handler for 10 years, was happy with the results of entries from Jaafar Stud where she has been working for the past two years.

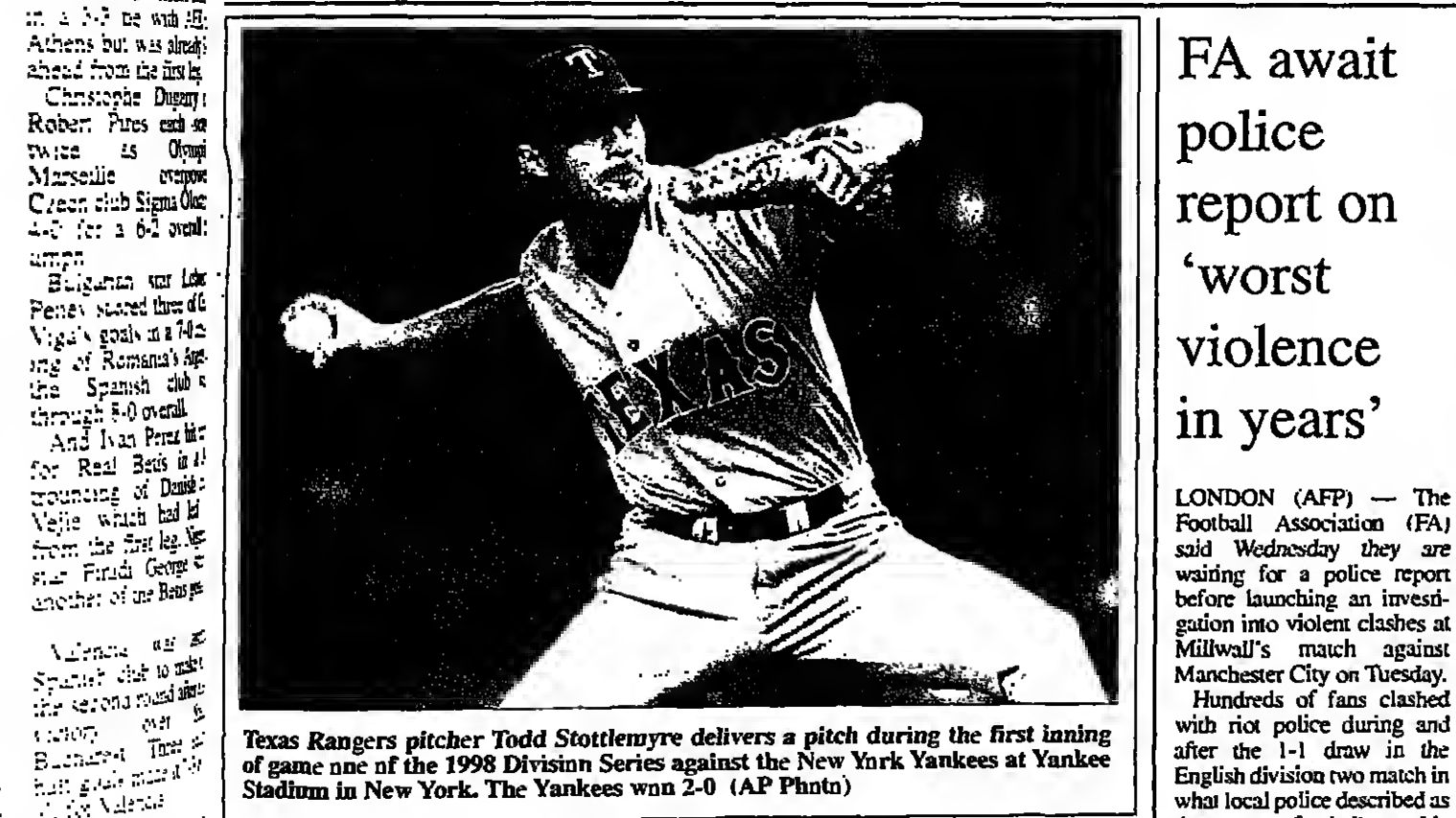
"Although the horses don't know me very much, I seem to have experience

dealing with strange horses," she told the Jordan Times.

The competitive and serious show was softened when organisers announced that one of the competing horses was giving birth.

Thursday will witness the racing event which will be held at the Royal Race Club in Tunaib.

The four-day event includes 165 entries from Qatar, the UAE, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria and the United States competing with the host country and will be concluded with the Middle East Championship Friday.



Texas Rangers pitcher Todd Stottlemyre delivers a pitch during the first inning of game one of the 1998 Division Series against the New York Yankees at Yankee Stadium in New York. The Yankees won 2-0 (AP Photo)

Agassi wins in 34 minutes

MUNICH (AP) — Andre Agassi rolled over Cedric Pioline 6-0, 6-0 in only 34 minutes Wednesday to storm into the quarterfinals of the \$6.7 million Grand Slam Cup.

In the quickest match since the tournament's inception in 1990, Pioline won only eight points in the first set and nine in the second against an Agassi playing with amazing confidence.

Agassi was given a wild card to play in the tournament, which nominally brings together players with best records in the year's four Grand Slam events — the Australian, French and U.S. Open and Wimbledon.

But three men's Grand Slam champions of the year

have decided to skip the tournament despite its huge prize money — Wimbledon champion and top-ranked Pete Sampras, U.S. Open champion Patrick Rafter and Carlos Moya, the French Open champion.

Only Australian Open champion Petr Korda is among the 12 men here.

"Regardless of who is not here, this is still a great tournament," Agassi said.

For his short work, Agassi earned \$175,000. Even more amazingly, Pioline picked up \$100,000 given to first-round losers — without even winning a game and hardly breaking a sweat.

With the official scorecard giving the duration of the match at 34 minutes, it

means Agassi made \$5,147 a minute, while Pioline made \$2,941 a minute in his losing effort.

Agassi, ranked No. 8 in the world, hit winners from all over the court from the start and the Frenchman never had a chance.

Agassi, a former No. 1 who is making a comeback after dropping out of the top 100, has won four titles this year. But his Grand Slam record for the year is relatively poor: Round of 16 at the Australian and the U.S. Open his best showing.

"I've come here very prepared and I'll feel more satisfied I did well since I got a wild card," said Agassi, a winner of three Grand Slam titles in his career.

Mobs of fans smashed cur and shop windows. Eighteen fans were arrested. City's players were kept inside the stadium for their own safety and their departure was delayed for an hour after the match while their 2,500 fans were also locked inside the ground.

Chief Inspector Chris Miles from Lewisham Police, who was in charge of operations at the ground, said: "The violence was absolutely horrifying, the worst I have seen for a long time."

"We kept the City fans back in the ground for their own protection. I would say there were up to 300 fans involved — almost all Millwall supporters. And there were injuries to both police and fans."

There were several pitch invasions during the game, and City manager Joe Royle claims his players were spat at and threatened. City boss Joe Royle said: "I cannot believe what I saw. It was a disgrace. If we had scored another goal in that atmosphere, I don't think we would have got out alive."

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Kufrsoum beat Hussein to win 1st ever title

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Premier League newcomers Kufrsoum Wednesday scored a major upset over Al Hussein to win the 1998 Jordan Football Association (JFA) Shield Championship, one of the country's four elite annual soccer competitions.

Kufrsoum, who were only promoted to the prestigious top-ten group three years ago, beat their Irbid rivals 1-0 to win their first ever major soccer title.

The final match had unusual finalists this year as the top teams were eliminated mainly due to the fact that Al Wihdat, Al Faisali and Al Ramtha — all of whom have won the Shield four times — competed without their national team players who were on duty with the Kingdom's team in the Arab Cup in Qatar.

The JFA Shield is the last major soccer event of the season. There are two more weeks remaining for the conclusion of the first leg of Premier League which will resume Oct. 4.

Al Wihdat, looking for their 5th consecutive Premier League title, won the first of the season's titles when they clinched their fourth Cup Winners' Cup.

Al Faisali beat Al Wihdat to win their record 10th Jordan Cup last month. They currently top Premier League standings on goal difference over Al Wihdat.

Al Faisali's last major titles were the 1995 Jordan Cup and the 1997 Federation Shield. Al Wihdat have won the Jordan Cup and Cup Winners' Cup in the last two years and the Premier League in the last four years.

Al Faisali dropped out of the event after losing to both finalists; Al Wihdat were out after losing to Al Qadissieh and Shabab Al Hussein, while Al Ramtha also lost to Kufrsoum last week.

Al Hussein and Kufrsoum met Monday night and the event would have ended had Al Hussein won since they had maintained an unbeaten record throughout the tournament.

Kufrsoum, on the other hand had lost one match early in the competition, and therefore had to first defeat Al Hussein to force a deciding match which they did by beating Al Hussein 2-1.

Al Hussein's last and only major title was the 1994 Shield in which they beat Al Faisali while Kufrsoum had never won any of the four major titles.

S. Arabia meet Qatar in Arab Cup final

By a Staff Reporter

THE ARAB CUP concludes in Doha, Qatar, Thursday when the hosts play Saudi Arabia in the final match of the 12-team event.

The Saudis beat Kuwait 2-1 in the semifinal while Qatar overcame the UAE by the same score to reach the final.

Kuwait who eliminated newcomers Egypt, face the UAE for third and fourth places before the final which ends a week of competition in which Jordan was eliminated in the first round.

The Saudis eliminated Lebanon and Algeria, while Sudan, playing their inaugural Arab Cup, upset Morocco before losing to the UAE.

Egypt and the rest of North African countries entered their Olympic teams rather than national teams in preparation for the Sydney Olympics.

Jordan's team failed to clinch the sole qualifying berth from Group 1 after losing 2-0 to Qatar and beating Libya 2-1.

Jordan's Yugoslav coach was quoted by newspapers as saying "the players lacked the team spirit and disregarded team officials and needed to be disciplined."

Jordan's elimination was the sixth time the team failed to get past the first round throughout their seven participations since the championship first kicked off in 1963. The Kingdom achieved the best result in the 5th cup hosted in Amman in 1988 where Jordan took fourth place.

Jordan has played a total of 23 Arab Cup matches winning only four, drawing in three and losing 16 matches.

To this day, the team scored only 15 goals while allowing 54 in.

Cash awards set by the Arab Soccer Federation are \$40,000 for the champion, \$30,000 for the runner up, and \$20,000 for the third and fourth-placed teams.

Iraq are the four-time titleholders. Tunisia and Egypt have won it once each, while Syria are three time runners-up.

The Jordanian team had training camps in Aqaba, Egypt, and Yugoslavia. The Kingdom's team qualified to the Arab Cup finals after beating Lebanon 2-0, drawing 1-1 with Palestine, and losing to Syria 3-0 in the preliminaries held in Beirut, Lebanon.

Tyson hearing delayed over missed deadline

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Mike Tyson will have to wait a little longer to find out if he will be allowed to return to the ring.

Tyson was supposed to go before Nevada boxing authorities Saturday for a final determination on his license. But the hearing was postponed Tuesday because of delays in getting reports on a battery of psychological tests performed on the former heavyweight champion.

A date for the new hearing probably won't be determined until Thursday, said Marc Ratner, executive director of the Nevada Athletic Commission.

"It's a matter of our doctors being able to read the reports and then getting all the commissioners together at one time," Ratner said. "I'll eventually come up with a date."

Tyson's doctors were to have the reports given to the commission by 5 p.m. Monday. But shortly after that time, the commission got a fax saying the reports were not completed and likely wouldn't be ready until Wednesday.

Commissioner James Nave said that didn't give the commission enough time to go over the five days of tests performed on Tyson at Massachusetts General Hospital. The tests began Sept. 23.

"We want enough time to do our homework," Nave said.

The delay in the commission hearing could threaten plans by Tyson's advisers for the former champion to fight a comeback bout before the end of the year. Though Tyson has been training lightly, it would probably take more than two months to train properly for and promote the fight.

Dr. Ronald Schouten, head of the team that examined Tyson, sent a letter to commission chairman Dr. Elias Ghanem, saying the reports would be completed Wednesday.

"Unfortunately, due to the length of the evaluation process, the scoring on the psychological and neuropsychological testing have not been completed," Schouten wrote.

Ghanem said he was disappointed the reports were not ready.

The commission is to determine whether Tyson could regain the boxing license that was stripped from him for biting Evander Holyfield's ear.

Tyson adviser Jeff Wald said he has not seen the results of the tests but believes they will clear Tyson to box again.

"I assume if they found him unfit to box they would have told us," Wald said.

Tyson underwent a six-hour hearing Sept. 19 before the commission, which was unhappy with the limited scope of psychological testimony presented on behalf of the former heavyweight champion and ordered that independent tests be conducted.

The testing had appeared to be the only obstacle standing in the way of the commission relicensing Tyson, following the first hearing.

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